TUESDAY, FEBRUARY b

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BACHDAD (Agencies) — The U.N envoy in charge of disarming fraq held lengthy talks with senior fraqi officials on Tuesday and said more negotiations were needed, "We are in the process. No talks are concluded," Rolf Ekeus told reporters after nine hours of talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and the head of facility in Industrialis than Commission General head of Iraq's military Industrialisation Commission, General Amer Rasheed, Mr. Ekeus, who arrived in Bughdad on Sunday at the head of a 10-member team of experts, said further meetinghere needed. He said his talks focused on technical and political that ended frag's compliance with the UN seasofire terminate and printed that ended frag's occupation of Kuweit in 1991. The was a very detailed, a very interesting discussion, he said. He declined to allow the said that the said the said the said that t claborate. Mr. Ekcus said he planned turther talks with Mr. Aziz on Wednesday and would leave Iraq on Thursday. The U.N. is urging Iraq to supply more data on arms programmes, particularly biological weapons research. On Monday, Mr. Ekeus said the two sides outlined what was needed to be achieved before granting Iraq a clean bill of health

after slipping on to in a Spanish ski http://
weekend and state Volume 19 Number 5851

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1995, RAMADAN 22, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

on his right weeks, his office Sharif Zeid meets

Monday It said the pusiness team

king was walking to MMAN (J.T.) — P cocurred Stade Dusiness team
king was walking at AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime danchu Ski Stato Amman (J.T.) — Prime erm Spain Carpia Amister Sharif Zeid Ben But despite inaker on Tuesday met with monarch were by delegation representing the Scheduled artiste iation (JBA) headed by gure skating one lamdi Tabaa and reviewed held at Sabinango one lie role of the Jordanian World Winter is pountry's economic develophis accident hear and in relations with will be in a say ordan News Agency, Petra, Elena down the isk; ng, which was attended by Sats married ben winster of Trade and Industry Alia Sade Lines and accident ry Alia Abul Ragheb, JBA Diana's admir and activities were also eviewed and the prime ainister underlined the importance of the JBA interact-

write briefly in late 12. FUNIS (R) — Algerian riot lived in a small part. FUNIS (R) — Algerian riot London to mentate tolice sealed off the main Princess Diana, inversity in central Algiers newspaper report on Tuesday, preventing Bernews Of The Wind per students from holding a sold weekly many protest march to promote witnesses Hoige whom Mr. heir language, witnesses sently dismissed and the Berber Cultural Movement home is language to the Berber Cultural Movement home is language to the Berber Cultural Movement home is language to the Berber Cultural Movement home is languaged to the Berber Cultural Movement home is languaged to the Berber Cultural Movement home is languaged to the city centre to the normal pages. Berber tongue, be recognised as an official Algerian language. cone States an official Algerian landonia States an official Algerian landonia States an official Algerian landonia States and states authorities, battling violence authorities, battling violence they blame on Muslim functions. But no me demonstratists (see page 12), they but no me damentalists (see page 12), wealthy at a refused permission for the march for "security reasons" the stunder health and th "Mr. Here's dents went ahead with their ered moving ह। है protest on the university cam-

Peres due in Egypt an Thursday in his car phor

யுக்கள்ளங்கள் Foreign Minister Shimon - ::: fall of "pe Peres will meet Egyptian standing whisper: President Hosni Mubarak in angust, the New? Cairo on Thursday for talks World reported to on a row over Israel's refusal Hand beening to sign the nuclear Nonanonymous. em Proliferation Treaty, Mr., for almost a.c. Peres' spokeswoman said on the police to Tuesday. Spokeswoman Besome of them are hira Berdugo said Mr. Peres Dina's private in would go to Egypt at Mr. Mubarak's invitation. The Empty your issue has soured Israel's rela-

the lewish state. one's President & Man arrested in

y-pris his post but NEW YORK (R) - A man mail compile believed to be involved in the conspiracy to bomb the conspiracy to bomb the world Trade Centre and other U.S. landmarks was collecting arrested Tuesday due to a private born sealed indictment, defence Manufo Central Par Lawyers said. Lawyers said. Manulo del the defendant is Abu Obaida
Sunday Par Rouas whose name had Sunday whose name had ment's list of 171 unindicted enders of complete occupants and or 171 unindicted senders of complete occupants shought to be carriage hear finvolved in the plot. Assistant U.S. Attended to the complete set tant U.S. Attended to the complete set tant U.S. partiage sal tant U.S. Attorney Matthew nonce nonce Fishbein confirmed the empassy of Aurest.

Pakistani emini Bcore a victory Board, the F Board. WE KUWAIT (R) — Opposition

parliament agreed to vote on no-confidence motion in hamlet that he government's leading iberal, Education Minister and Al Rubei. Muslim and amentalist lawmakers are for light on assembly backing factors. ERN (AFP)

And you assembly backing for the same trying for liveb. 28 vote after calling Mr. same canons by the livebe to account in a processor but it is the not need in 10 as processor. contained but it is me not used in 10 years and but a hire not used in 10 years and plebiscies spenilling him with hostile questions at 3 told on one alleging mismanagement at 3 told one in the minesty urges release of the spenilling to fall of the mesty urges release of the spenilling to fall of the minesty urges release of the spenilling to fall of the minesty urges release of the spenilling to fall of the minesty urges release of the spenilling to fall of the minesty urges release of the spenilling to fall of the spenilling to the spenil

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Executive Committee meets in Cairo; accord reached on observers for self-rule elections

CAIRO (Agencies) - Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation

(PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat opened a crisis meet-

ing of his Executive Commit-

tee here Tuesday to seek a

radical new format for the

deadlocked autonomy talks

with Israel and bring in Washington, Moscow and the

A "global re-evaluation"

of the peace talks is needed

because the existing format is

"outmoded and going no-where," committee member

"Regional and internation-

al intervention and a change

of format for the negotiations

are needed if the process is to

go forward," he said before

the meeting opened late

Tuesday in the Egyptian

capital.
The PLO wants to bring in

regional parties such as

Egypt and international ones

such as the peace process's sponsors (the United States and Russia), Norway (which hosted talks leading to the

autonomy deal) and the European Union," he said.

Mr. Arafat chaired the

talks which gathered nine of

Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

European Union.

LONDON ag with its counterparts from dealer Oliver it.

dealer Oliver House:

chauffeur has alle: Algerian riot police

cealthy Englishma: block Berber protest

wife briefly miles w.

THE STATIONS SOME TELL AVIV (R) - Israeli

box, Mozanie tions with Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab president to became the first Arab

country's post conspiracy'

Telegation the Net Kuwaiti Islamists

State Secretary Slamists in Kuwait scored a

Sem anion fall in lasphemy' Pakistanis

upsets forgotten ministers TEL AVIV (Agencies) — liament, w Prime Minister Yitzbak formality. liament, which is normally a Rabin gave the interior and

Ran Cohen, Meretz parreligious portfolios to two liamentary party leader, deministers already in his scribed the reshuffle as a cabinet on Tuesday, angering "slap in the face" for Mr. Sarid, who has played a ma-Environment Minister jor role in the Palestinian Yossi Sarid denied a report autonomy negotiations.

Israeli cabinet reshuffle

After Meretz members met Mr. Rabin to protest, the prime minister agreed to delay bringing the appointments to parliament until Monday, deputies said.

The coveted interior ministry went to Tourism Minister Uzi Baram while Economics Minister Shimon Shitreet was also given religious affairs. Both men are members of

Mr. Rabin's Labour Party.

However, Mr. Sarid was not the only disappointed Half the cabinet have voiced hopes of promotion. Police Minister Moshe Shahappointments when they al was among several left to

Mr. Rabin had held the interior portfolio since Rabbi Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-orthodox Shas Party, quit as interior minister at the end of 1993 when he was indicted for fraud. The trial is still going on.

Since then the premier has failed to persuade Shas to return to the coalition.

The coalition is currently built on Labour's 44 seats in the 120-member parliament, 12 from Meretz and two from a new breakaway faction cal-

That leaves Mr. Rabin two short of a blocking majority of 60 seats.

He has to rely on five Arab or communist deputies, which he is loath to do, or the five Shas members, who sometimes vote with the opposition. Mr. Rabin, who is also

cials.

defence minister, had kept religious affairs when he won (Continued on page 3)

the United Nations, which Israel has kept at bay from the Middle East peace process, said Dr. Erakat.

"We insist on the international community following our elections from A to Z, he said. "We are serious in our intention to organise free and honest elections."

PLO wants wider international

involvement in peace process

the 18 members of his orga-

nisation's top body. Opponents of the peace process

were boycotting the session.

Israel and the PLO agreed

Tuesday on international

observers for elections to a

Palestinian self-rule council.

this question. They raised no proposal which contradicts

ours," the chief Palestinian

negotiator, Saeb Erakat, told

reporters, at the end of a first

His Israeli counterpart

Yoel Singer said that the two

sides wanted to organise free

and fair democratic elections

with "sufficient international

seriously and made a lot of

progress on many issues and

we will continue to work

The Palestinians proposed

of the United States, Russia,

the European Union, Egypt,

Canada, Japan and Norway.

tomorrow," he said.

campaign."

ing with the enemy." The

draft law would empower the

Council of Ministers to de-

cide who the "enemy" is and

issue regulations banning

The draft law, which the

House would have referred

to its Judiciary Committee

had it met yesterday, would

also repeal a 1973 law that

bans the sale of real estate to

Israelis, a 1958 law that

forces total economic

boycott . of Israel and a 1953

In a letter to the House

law that prohibits trade with

dealings with it.

We worked together very

"There is no problem on

In talks, also in Cairo,

The Palestinians have submitted six working papers to try to bring the two sides closer on modalities of the elections, he said.

Dr. Erakat hoped that the two sides would start drawing up a joint document on the long-delayed elections on Wednesday, the final day of the latest round of talks. But he insisted the elec-

tions could only take place after an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank, in line with the autonomy accords. Mr. Arafat called the

the observers force operate emergency meeting of the under the control of the United Nations and be made up PLO Executive Committee because of Israel's failure to abide by the terms of the autonomy accords.

The PLO and Israel signed The EU could also play the a declaration of principles (DoP) in Washington in role of coordinator instead of

September 1993, two years after the start of bilateral peace talks, which led to the launch of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho ias:

But elections to a Palestinian self-rule council are seven months behind schedule because Israel has baulked at withdrawing its troops from towns on the West Bank in line with the declaration.

"The current format of the negotiation and the Israelis' insistence on revising each point in the agreements we have already reached show that we are at an impasse," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

"The process must be reexamined in a radical and sweeping way. Negotiations were no lon-

ger just facing the "secondary problem or the usual obstacles any negotiations can face," he said. And he accused the Israelis of making proposals which

had nothing to do with the existing autonomy accords. Earlier he dismissed as a

(Continued on page 7)

Opponents of treaty and repeal no joint of laws thwart House session

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Opposition deputies Tuesday aborted the last meeting of the Lower House of Parliament in its second ordinary session in protest against a draft legislation that would repeal three laws that ban all norms of dealing with Israel.

The opposition lawmakers kept the House from meeting by boycotting the session and depriving it of quorum. Only 50 deputies showed up inside the Parliament hall, four deputies short of the 54 needed. Lawmakers said the Isla-

mic Action Front and leftist pan-Arabist deputies kept their plans secret until the last minute; other deputies missed the session for other reasons.

Had other lawmakers in favour of peace with Israel known that the opposition deputies were planning the boycott, said one deputy, those among them who were absent would have showed up for the meeting and the opposition effort would have

The opposition deputies, who number 23, are the minority in the House and

other ambitious colleagues.

on Israel Radio that he had

threatened to quit and

stormed out of a cabinet

meeting when the appoint-

Party, the junior coalition

government partner, express-

ed anger that Mr. Sarid, who

wanted the interior ministry.

"We don't accept this deci-

sion," raged Education

Minister Amnon Rubinstein

of Meretz. "It's a total lack of

consideration for our weight

He warned that Meretz

could vote against the

come up for approval in par- grumble in private.

and our contribution."

was snubbed.

But his left-wing Meretz

ments were announced.

could not on their own deny the 80-member House meetsince the objective of legthe 80-member House meetquorum requirement. Slation that ban dealing with Israel in particular is" obso-IAF parliamentary bloc

spokesman Hamzeh Mansour told the Jordan Times that The prime minister said that since Jordanian laws do the opposition's boycott of not regulate dealings with the the meeting Tuesday was part "enemy," except for legislaof its "anti-normalisation tion related to Israel, the new draft law will fill this vacuum On the agenda of the and give the Council of aborted meeting was the draft law on "economic Ministers the power to define boycott and the ban on deal-

who is "enemy." The House, which is expected to convene in an extraordinary session in May or June, had approved the Jordan-Israel peace treaty

with a 55-23 majority. Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tel had told the Jordan Times that the government was obliged under the treaty to repeal all laws that contradict with the state of peace

Despite the opposition's success in aborting yesterday's session, observers said the House would eventually endorse the draft law as the majority of its members support the peace process.

explaining the reasons that "What the opposition denecessitated the drafting of the new law, the prime minisputies did (yesterday) was a symbolic gesture to show ter said that the draft law their opposition to peace with comes in implementation of Israel." said one lawmaker. the law on endorsing the Oct.

Arabs say exercises with Israel

LONDON (Agencies) — At least four Arab countries have denied reports that they would take part in a naval exercise with Israel and other Arab states. Israeli defence ministry

officials said on Sunday that Saudi Arabia would be among eight Arab states joining Israel in a Canadiansponsored exercise in the Mediterranean next month. It was described as the first

exercise of its kind involving Israel and Arab states. But Saudi officials in London said the report was incor-

at. "Saudi Arabia is not taking part in this manoeuvre. Saudi Information Attache Mohammad Sobaihi told Reuters.

He said he did not know how Saudi Arabia came to be included in the list of participants, which also included Egypt, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. Israel Radio reported that Jordan and the Palestinians would also take Mr. Sobaihi said he did not

know whether the other Arab states named were taking part in the exercise. On Tuesday, Egypt, Oman and Algeria denied the Israeli

announcement. An Egyptian Defence Ministry source said: "There are no plans to take part in

any joint exercises with Israel, whether naval, ground or in the air. An Algerian foreign ministry spokesman, quoted by the country's official news agency APS, "strongly denied the

report ... (and) also ques-tioned the motives of those behind such baseless allega-Oman's Ministry of Defence said in a statement that it "denies reports of newspapers and Israeli radio that

(Continued on page 7)

the Sultanate of Oman will take part in the naval exercises in March ... there is no basis of truth in those reports. Israel has full diplomatic relations with Egypt and Jor-

dan and low-level ties with Tunisia and Morocco. There was no immediate comment from Canadian offi-

An Israeli official said on little difference between my Monday it would be mainly a position here as a tourist and search and rescue exercise my position as a tour oper-

(Continued on page 3)

'ILLEGALS': A group of 10 illegal aliens captured on Feb. 14 with the help of an captured by the U.S. border patrol sit on a additional 62 veteran agents added to cut down hilltop overlooking Nogales, Arizona. Accordon Hegal border crossings (AFP photo) ing to the border patrol, 515 illegal aliens were

RJ to start using Israeli air space from March 10

By F.V. Vivekanand Iordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordamian (RI), the national carrier, will begin routing its westward flights through Israeli airspace from March 10 for a trial period of two months under an agreement reached with Israel on Tues-

The use of Israeli airspace at an average altitude of 17,000 feet - as agreed Tuesday — is expected to ve an average of of flying time for RJ aircraft flying to and from Western destinations. The airline has about 50 weekly flights to Europe and beyond.

The temporary agreement was reached after several months of intense negotiations between the civil aviation authorities of Jordan and Israel, which signed a peace treaty in October ending a 46-year state of war.

The negotiations revolved around an Israeli insistence that RJ flights should not fly higher than 11,000 feet. Israel said flights over this altitude would interfere with Israeli air force training flights; but Jordan demanded "free-ascent-and-free descent" rights as enshrined in any aviation accord on overflights between two coun-

The agreement, which reflected a compromise belween the two demands, was announced Tuesday after a meeting of a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee supervising the implementation of the peace treaty at Eilat on the Israeli coast of the Red Sea. It was announced by RJ President and Chief Executive

Nader Dahabi. The meeting was chaired by Jordan's Hani Al Mulki

stein and attended by Civil Aviation Authority Director-General Ahmad Jweiber and RJ officials as well as their Israeli counterparts.

The Israeli transport minister, Yisrael Kassar, said in a statement to the press in occupied Jerusalem that the agreement was a "step that builds peace." Mr. Dahabi, quoted by the

Jordan News Agency, Petra. said the two sides would meet again after the two-month trial period and seek to arrive permanent agreement on civil aviation.

The accord covers only RJ flights.

Other airlines will have to negotiate their own agreements with Israel if they want to use the airspace of the Jewish state to fly in and out

(Continued on page 3)

but late objections by Mr. Rabbani and a demand by

the Taliban for control of

Kabul upset his timetable.

tions, some details to discuss

with some people, then we

hope to make an announce-

ment about the next phase of

the peace process tomorrow

in Kabul. Mr. Mestiri said.

sort of a commission to come

up with ways to resolve the

deadlock between Mr. Rab-

He might appoint some

"We have some consulta-

British businessman denies charge

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The organiser of a British trade delegation denied here Tues-day that he was busting U.N. sanctions and criticised London for launching an inves-tigation into the Iraqi trip. Edmund Sykes told AFP

his role with the delegation in Iraq was to "introduce individual people and companies on behalf of the Iraqi-British Interests Group (IBI), a nonprofit making organisation, to various members of the Iraqi state and to some individuals in the private sector."

Earlier Tuesday the daily Financial Times reported that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in London was investigating a possible breach of the U.N. sanctions by the group's secretary Sykes and director Stephen Crouch.

All the companies in the group were though to have licences for the trip but not the organisers, the paper

Under legislation governing relations with Iraq, British citizens are free to travel to Baghdad but must first obtain a communication licence from the DTI if they wish to trade or discuss trade. But Mr. Sykes insisted the

British government was "well aware" of the trip to Iraq and that the DTI had issued all members of the group with a "licence to communicate with Iraq" before they left.
"The IBI, as such, does not

possess this licence for the simple reason that it is not communicating with the Iraqi state or indeed with private companies in Iraq," he said.

"In my opinion there is

Afghan plan delayed; envoy says no giving up

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — U.N. envoy to Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri returned to Islamabad on Tuesday vowing not to give up after his plan for a transfer of power in Kabul from President Burhanuddin Rabbani foundered at the eleventh

"I would not describe it as a failure." he told reporters at Islamabad airport as he arrived from Kabul for an overnight stay. He said he would go back to Kabul on Wednesday to announce the next phase of his peace pro-"We have not given up."

he said. "It can only be a failure if the U.N. gives up and we will never do that." U.N. officials in Kabul said Mr. Mestiri would brief his colleagues in Islamabad on his talks with Mr. Rabbani and his top commander Ahmad Shah Masoud, as well as with the new Islamic Taliban militia seeking to take

charge of Kabul's security. Mr. Mestin had hoped to arrange for Mr. Rabbani to hand over to a representative council of about 30 Afghan political leaders on Monday.

bani and the Talibans, diplomatic sources said. Asked if the failure of his efforts would mean the col-

lapse of the peace process. Mr. Mestiri said: "I wouldn't say collapsed, we don't use this word collapsed. But if there is no next state, nothing to say, then it would be a very bad development." He said the U.N. was

against involving the Talibans in the proposed interim gov-

"They are a different sort of force than the Afghan parties, a new force. We should talk to them, see what they want, but we don't think they should be represented on the mechanism.

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN — AMMAN

Pakistan Textile and Cloth Fair 95 organised by the Export Promotion Bureau, will be held at Karachi Sheraton Hotel from March 19-22, 1995. The event will give an insight to the advanced textile industry of Pakistan. The organisers will arrange visits to manufacturers, factories, conducted and guided complimentary sight-seeing tours. Cultural evenings/fashions show and seminars will be special

2. Interested parties may kindly contact the Embassy of Pakistan, Amman (Tel.: 622787, 638352, Fax: 611633). Information brochures have also been sent to the Chamber of Commerce/ Industry, Amman.

GENEVA (Agencies)—The Pohl said 63 executions were United Nations has expressed reported in the press last concern over the human rights situation in Iran, criticising Tehran for subjecting prisoners to torture and warning that public executions were on the rise.

The report by a special U.N. representative, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, accused Iran's government of inflicting sentences incompatible with international norms, including amputation and flagellation. It said there had been an increase in the number of public executions and executions by stoning.

Mr. Galindo Pohl, who based his report on accounts by witnesses and the press because he has not been allowed into Iran, denounced the killing of three Protestant pastors and called for a halt to the persecution of members of the Bahai faith.

He expressed concern over ill-treatment of prisoners, noting the death in detention of the writer Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani last November and reports that Abbas Amir Entezam, a former deputy prime minister held in Evin prison, was being mistreated.

Mr. Galindo Pohl cited the case of Helmut Szimkus. a German engineer who has complained of being tortured during his five years in detention in Evin prison on espionage charges. He also cited the disappearance from Esfahan of an Australian citizen. David Andrew Lindner.

His report was moderate in tone, however, and noted that Iran had recognised the universal character of human rights in a statement to a U.N. body last August. In his report, Mr. Galindo

reported in the press last year, many allegedly for violent crimes. The vast majority of executions went undocumented after international criticism of the high number of cases, he said.

He criticised authorities for extending the death penalty to include price speculation and racketeering. The Salvadorean jurist

voiced particular concern at the incidence of whippings and amputations and the increase in the number of public hangings and deaths by stoning.

Torture was still widely

used to extract confessions, especially in politically sensitive cases, Mr. Galindo Pohl

The 29-page report will be considered by the 53-nation U.N. Human Rights Commission later this month in a procedure reserved serious violations.

Mr. Galindo Pohl said there were signs of gross prison overcrowding. One former convict described how prison units for 150 people contained 700 to 1,000, with many forced to sleep in the toilets. Hygiene was appalling and disease was rife, with practically no medical treat-

The government maintains the prison population is 100,000, half of them sentenced for drug-related

Mr. Galindo Pohl said the 73-year-old former chief of military police, Azizollah Amir-Rahimi, had been arrested last November after writing an open letter to President Hashemi Rafsanjani to press for more democratic

to describe the endurances of political prisoners in Iran nor the flagrant abuses by the revolutionary tribunals against the dignity and honour of the people, nor the suffering of the Iranian population as a result of systematic oppression," wrote Mr. Amir-Rahimi in his let-

Mr. Amir-Rabimi's son was taken into custody after appealing against the arrest. Iranian media reported that Mr. Amir-Rahimi was transferred to hospital because of opium addiction and was subsequently receiving psychiat-ric treatment, said Mr. Galindo Pohl

In an effort to uphold Ira-nian cultural and religious traditions, authorities had outlawed clothes with "improper" designs or Roman lettering, and all satellite television equipment.

Persecution against relizious minorities like the Baha'is continued unabated, said Mr. Galindo Pohl. He indicated that authorities were implicated in last year's murder of three prominent Protestant church leaders and said the case against the official suspect was riddled with inconsisten-

The jurist said the government should allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit prisoners under a 1991 accord. Iranian authorities kicked out the ICRC shortly after the agreement was implemented, apparently fearing that the humanitarian agency had given information on prison conditions to Mr. Galindo Pohl.

sources said the talks had "entered the decisive stage." Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami told Reuters: "We have no information on this. I don't know anything about this.

> we are sparing no effort to bring Ron Arad home but we have no information about new developments." The newspaper also quoted Iran's Ambassador Hossein

"We are willing to say that

Mousavian denying any secret talks had taken place. Israel has repeatedly demanded news of its missing soldiers, notably Arad, before it agreed to discuss an exchange of about 250 Arab captives held by it or its militia allies, the South Leba-

tani city of Peshawar before

he and 25 of his schoolmates

joined the Talibans four

in Afghanistan is a proper

The other factions say they

share the same goal. But three years of fighting and

anarchy that has reigned in

and around Kabul has under-

The Talibans' message of

social order has a powerful

appeal. They claim to have

halted lawlessness in areas

they have captured in south-

ern and eastern Afghanistan.

lords from imposing roadb-

locks and extorting money

from civilians; they claim to

down on drug traffickers.

They have stopped war-

mined their credibility.

not done this."

Emir calls on press to stop staining Kuwait's reputation

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's emir on Monday called on the country's press to stop sowing the seeds of social unrest and staining the emi-rate's reputation abroad.

In an annual address to the nation marking the last 10 days of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah said: "The attacks and counter attacks we have unfortunately been witnessing are caused by personal reasons and have nothing to do with public in-

He said such attacks can only benefit Kuwait's enemies who are "hunting for our mistakes." He did not name these enemies.

The emirate boasts the freest press among the six Arab Gulf states. Government censorship

imposed on the press when parliament was dissolved in. 1986, was lifted before the 1992 public elections that restored the legislature with an opposition majority. A war of words over hu-

man rights has been taking place among columnists of Al Qabas, the only independent daily, and those of the progovernment papers.

It was started with the deportation of a Palestinian poet who allegedly insulted a Kuwaiti columnist in a poem. Islamic fundamentalists who want Kuwait to implement Islamic law and the Westernised liberals also clash, sometimes bitterly. "We wish that our press..

would purify its shiny picture from these impurities that shake our social ties and stain our image in front of the world." the emir said

He called on solidarity among Kuwaitis who are still recovering from the effects of the Iragi occupation that was ended four years ago by a U.S.-led international coalition.

"We have to remember that love cannot be created with a decision... and moral values are not ordered by decree," the emir said.

He told Kuwaitis that their pre-oil forefathers had more patriotic feelings than those who nowadays are only concerned with taking and pos-

sessing."
Kuwaitis, who have been pampered for decades with a cradle-to-grave welfare system might have to pay taxes and fees for services they have been receiving free of charge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin's party blocks Golan referendum law

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The ruling Labour Party on Tuesday banned three of its hardline members from introducing a bill which would call for a 65-per cent majority in a referendum over concessions to Syria on the Golan: Heights. The parliamentary group, at the request of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, blocked the proposed bill by a 28-5 vote, sources in parliament said. The three deputies, led by Avidgor Kahalani, planned to submit a bill which would have called for a 65-per cent majority in a referendum on any Golan concession or the support of 70 members in the 120-seat parliament. "If we accepted such a proposal we would have needed the support of a part of the opposition," said Mr. Rabin. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said such a law would have signalled that "we don't want to reach an accord with Syria."

Gad Al Hag says he will not visit Israel

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian Muslim cleric said he would not visit Israel because it was a bad, untrustworthy neighbour, newspapers reported on Tuesday. "If we are asked to be good neighbours then those who ask us must be good neighbours. But Israel is not," said Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, sheikh of Al Azhar, Egypt's prestigious institute of Islamic learning. Another senior Egyptian religious official, Mufti Mohammad Sayyed Tantawi, said in January he was willing to visit Israel because Muslims could not achieve their rights by boycotting the Jewish state. Sheikh Gad Al Haq, whose remarks at a Koran recital competition on Monday were reported by newspapers, said: "If Israel has not been deterred by the crushing defeat it received in the October (1973) war with Egypt then no Muslim, including Sheikh Al Azhar, would want to visit it at all. (No Muslim) would want to fulfill any of (Israel's) requests as long as it continues to ignore contracts and promises and is not a good neighbour."

Syrians elect local councils

DAMASCUS (AP) - Syrians went to the polls Tuesday to elect local administration councils for the country's 14 governorates. According to official statistics, 22,196 candidates were competing for 5,452 council seats. Local councils provide social, educational and cultural services. for citizens. They are elected for four-year terms. The election process will continue through Wednesday, supervised by polling committees headed by city mayors.

Russian spy chief visits Turkey

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's counter-intelligence head, Sergei Stepashin, left here Tuesday for a visit to Turkey focusing on Chechenya, and fighting terrorism, drug-trafficking and organised crime, the news agency Interfax said. Mr. Stepashin, director of the Federal counterintelligence service FSK, formerly the KGB, was scheduled to meet with his counterpats in Turkey's special services, Interfax said. Turkey's attitude to the Chechenya conflict has been ambiguous. Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese, during a visit here in January to look at Russian military hardware, stressed that it was an internal Russian problem. But earlier in January, the Turkish parliament condemned Russian "atrocities" in Chechenya and said the crisis there could spark further instability in the already

Israel links fishing ban to 'harassment'

BEIRUT (AFP) - Israel has linked a ban on overnight fishing in South Lebanese territorial waters to the alleged harrassment of people going in and out of its "security zone" in South Lebanon, officials said on Tuesday. Israel sent a note to the Lebanese army saying the ban will be maintained as long as the army "harrassed" travellers entering and leaving the occupied border strip, the official said. Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri rejected the Israeli conditions and denounced the message as a new threat from the Jewish state. "Are they asking us to put an end in the (security) measures taken by the Lebanese army in a bid to send us car-bombs?" Mr. Berri told reporters after the army informed him of the Israeli note. "It is our right to take any measure we consider necessary to maintain peace and order in our country," he said.

Libya asks for Indonesian help

JAKARTA (AFP) — Libya has called on Indonesia, a recently appointed member of the U.N. Security Council, to help seek a review of international sanctions imposed upon Tripoli after the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner. Visiting Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Musafa Al Muntasir told journalists Tuesday that he had asked Indonesia to support a review of the sanctions, saying fresh evidence raised doubts about Libyan involvement in the Lockerbie bombing. He said the Security Council should "review the whole issue versus Libya and all the sanctions should be abolished until a thorough investigation has been carried out to find out the truth."

PNA holds six Abu Nidal members

GAZA (R) - Palestinian police are holding six members of the Abu Nidal group in Gaza on suspicion of "planning to destabilise" the self-rule areas, the Palestinian legal adviser said on Tuesday. "Six people from the Abu Nidal group... are being questioned. This group had many plans against Palestinian security. The definitely were aiming to undermine Palestinian national security," said Khaled Al Kidra, the Palestinian attorney general in Gaza. A Gaza family said three of its members were among the six Palestinians detained last October on suspicion of belong-ing to the Abu Nidal group. Members of the Abdo family denied that their relatives were activists in any guerrilla group. A senior aide to Yasser Arafat said in a newspaper interview published on Monday that a member of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council was in custody on suspicion of plotting to assassinate Mr. Arafat.

Lonely lioness hit by U.N. sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The beasts in Baghdad zoo have become the latest casualties of the U.N. embargo imposed in August 1990, as staff struggle to find food slaughtering donkeys to keep the endangered animals alive.

Hani, a lion from Zambia was the latest inmate to die after falling sick through lack of food. Now keeper Salman

Daoud fears the once-proud

beast's mate Sukkar could be For nearly 25 years he has

cared for the animals at the zoo, built on a former military site in Al Zaura, and

months after emerging as a

new force in Afghanistan,

warriors fighting for a puri-

seen as saviours by many

long-suffering people fed up

A rapid advance that be-

gan with their capture of the

southern city of Kandahar

last November has brought

the Taliban militia to the

southern outskirts of the

Talibans, militant Islamic stu-

dents recognisable by their

distinctive black turbans. But

many Afghans believe they

are the only group that can

end the three-year-old civil

war, making the Talibans a

"Many people believe the

wild card in peace efforts.

Talibans can save the coun-

try," said Mohammad Taher.

who works as a moneychan-

ger. "They have brought

peace to a number of pro-

vinces. They have ended

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunctation Tel.

little is known about the

with civil war.

capital Kabul.

fied Islamic state are being

opened in 1973.

At the time the zoo wanted for nothing, and building on a second phase was due to start in 1990 at a cost then of about \$30 million.

But it was never carried out because of the embargo slapped on Iraq in August 1990 when it invaded neighbouring Iraq.
Now food is rationed and

medicines are in short supply. Only 42 animals are left in the zoo including tigers, bears, monkeys, lamas, wolves, jackals, camels, horses and several species of

"Damn the blockade and

roadblocks by the other par-

ties. This has opened the

roads and allowed more food

into the capital, so goods are

Afghans have grown dis-

gusted with the established

Íslamic factions who have de-

vastated Kabul in a bitter

struggle for power that began

after they ousted a commun-

factions power-hungry, cor-

and looting. This is not an

Islamic government, this is

not in the Koran," said Mullah Bor Jan, the Talibans'

front-line commander in

Charasyab, 25 kilometres

On Saturday, U.N. envoy Mohmoud Mestiri visited

Charasyab to court Talibans

representatives in an effort to

preserve a peace plan that

calls for embattled President

He also met government

rupt and even un-Islamic.

The Talibans call the other

There is shelling, robbing

ist government in 1992.

hand through the bars.

mes of red meat just to feed the lioness, the wolves and the tigers," zoo manager Adel Salman Musa told the Alif Baa wekkly.

donkey daily at a cost of 10,000 dinars," or \$15.5, three times the average salary uad, be exp

they will work, lacking proper animal treatments.

Burhanuddin Rabbani to step

down and make way for a

broad-based, multi-party

Mr. Mestiri wants the tran-

sition to take place within

days, possible as soon as

fused to sign up, saying the council must consist of "good

Muslims" — a requirement

the other groups often used to justify their continued

Many believe the well-

The Talibans have re-

cruited thousands of suppor-

ters among young Afghans

who grew up in refugee camps in Pakistan and

attended religious schools. Pakistan is believed to be

supporting the group, though

a typical Talibans warrior.

He spent seven years at a

religious school in the Pakis-

Mohammad Hussein, 21, is

it denies that.

Jordan Valley

armed Talibans could make

or break the council.

But the Talibans have re-

governing council.

Mr. Daoud as he stroked Sugar tenderly, stretching his "We need 60 kilogram-

"Because of the rising cost of meat, we have to kill a

Staff dose sick animals with human medicines given in greater quantity in the hope

non Army (SLA).

The Pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militia opposing Israel in the region denies

Many Afghans see new militia as saviour impose strictly traditional Islam. For example, all

women are to wear veils and

UNUSUAL CALM: Two Afghan children sell area was a hotly contested frontline in the

bread locally along the ruins of a former recent battles between factions (AFP photo) shopping boulevard in eastern Kabul. This

knowledge of Arad's fate.

"Hizbollah has no relation

whatsoever with the case of

Ron Arad." a Hizbollah spokesman in Beirut said.

Last May Israeli commandos snatched Mustapha Al

Dirani, leader of an anti-

Israeli guerrilla group allied

with Hizbollah from his home

Israel said it hoped Sheikh

Dirani, head of a guerrilla

unit that captured Arad after

his plane was shot down.

would give them information

bollah eleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, kidnapped

from South Lebanon by

Israeli commandos in 1989.

and Sheikh Ahmad Yassin,

spiritual leader of the Palesti-

The FAZ said Iran was

demanding as its price for

Arad the release of Sheikh

Dirani, Sheikh Obeid and

Sheikh Yassin as well as

It said this was believed to

mean the end of Israeli con-

trol over the "security zone"

it has declared in South Leba-

non, a region used by Hizbol-

lah fighters to launch attacks

The newspaper said Iran

was also demanding that

Israel sign the international

nuclear Non-Proliferation

Israel, on the other hand.

was demanding that Iran end its support of Hamas and

Hizbollah, the FAZ said.

Israel is also holding Hiz-

in western Lebanon.

on his whereabouts.

nian group Hamas.

military concessions.

on Israel

Treaty.

Iran, Israel in secret

BONN (R) — Iran and Israel

have been holding secret

talks in Germany for years on

the release of a captured air-

man and are nearing a con-

clusion, the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine

In an advance release from

Tuesday's edition. the FAZ

quoted Bonn security forces

saying the talks on the fate of

navigator Ron Arad had

been going on since 1986.

immediately after he was shot

down over South Lebanon

and captured by militiamen.

According to the paper the

Zeitung (FAZ) reported.

talks on airman - paper

months ago.
"The main thing we want not permitted to work outside the home. Many Taliban fighters are Islamic government with Sharia law," said Mr. Hus-sein. "The other parties have teenagers or in their early 20s, though many commanders are veterans of the war against the Soviet forces and communist Afghan allies that

began in 1979. Most frontline Taliban fighters wear either a black or white turban and the baggy pajama like clothes

The Talibans come largely from the rural south of Afghanistan and most have never set foot in Kabul.

While the residents of the capital are desperate for peace, friction may arise between the rough and rugged Talibans and the more sophisticated population in Kabul.

"The people of Kabul are have disarmed gangs that terrorised towns and villages Muslims, but they are not and say they have cracked used to having too many restrictions," said Mr. Taher, They also have begun to the money changer.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

De la Salie Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366 JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 Church of the Annunciation Tcl 623541 PROGRAMME TWO Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 17:00 "Les Ratonsi Aveurs" 17:30 Envoye Special "Magazine" 628543. News in French 771331. E-M6 Ramadan in the World an Orthodox Church Tel. Armenia 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amusan International Church Tel. .. Get to Know Your Body 652526. 21:10 The Dwelling Place elical Lutheran Church Tel:

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of 1-2 News in English Snowy River 22:20 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saluts Tol. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tol.675691. The Evangetical Local Church in Feature film: "Prescription For **PRAYER TIMES** Tcl. 811295

..... Fajr (Sunrise) Duha WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology. .. Maghreb 'Isha

Temperatures will drop with a chance of thunder showers. Skies will be choudy and winds southwesterly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds south-St. Mary of Nazareth Church erly active and seas rough. Sweifieh, Tcl. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. 632785. Min./Max. temp.

Agaba

Ahmad Qanu Al Quds pharmacy

ZARQA:

Dr. Fawaz Harzallah

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15 Aqaba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent.

903644

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGH: DUTY		
AMMAN: Dr. Khalil Ismiqna	384 191 173 191 193 194 166 167	1816001216572165012
IRBID:		

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111 Rescue 650341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade ... Blood Bank ... Highway Police Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 608800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Complaints Amman Municipality 787111 (directory assistance)
Overseas Calls Overseas Calls U Central Amman Telephone 623101 Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine. Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital ... Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic. Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli. Abdali Italian, Al-Muhajreen Al-Bashir. J. Ashrafich Army, Marka 777101/3 . 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155 mal Hospital ZARQA: Zarga Govi. Hospital Zarga National Hospital (09)983323

(09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital Al Hillia Modern Hospital IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital ... Greek Cathobe Hospital Ibu Al Nafees Hospital (02)27555 . (02)247)00 Princess Haya Hospital ...

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS

.... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

Rome (RJ)

Beirut (R 1

17:20

18:10

AIRPORT

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) . Aqaba (RJ) . Jeddah (RJ) Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)Lamaca (RJ) 15:00 Amsterdam, New York (R) .. London (RJ Brussels (R1) Paris (RJ 18:95 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ) Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

.. Cairo (MS) .. Sanaa (IY) Jeddah (SV) Algicts (AH Karachi (PK) I атпаса 20:20 23:05 Athons (OA) Amsterdam (KL) DEPARTURES

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 09:30 Berlin, London (RJ) Istanbul (RJ) . Beirut (RI)

..... Cakutta, Bangkok (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Beirut (ME) ... Caire (MS) ... Sanaa (FY) Jeddah (SV) 11:30 Sharqah (AH Muscat, Karachi (PK

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. America ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Demances 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Demances 7:30 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Antenna ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES

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680 620 130 / 60 Banana (Mukammar) .

HomeR

Her Royal Highness Princess Tuesday visits districts in Irbid G rate as part of the Ramadan

Princess Basma v

IRBID (Petra) - Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday visited the districts of Taybeh and North Mazar in Irbid Governorate as part of the annual Ramadan charity campaign launched by the Onesn Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The Princess met with representatives of various charitable and other local organisations and expressed QAF's determination to help socioeconomic development in the nural regions and local com-Princess Basma, who is assist

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NHF brings :

'dynamic ed AMMAN (J.T.) — After

almost two months of preparation the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre-in-Education Programme (TIE), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the British Council, Tuesday night brought the efforts of British playwright and director Geoff Gillham and a group of Jordanian actors, directors and playwights to the Royal Cultural it role Centre (RCC) stage: a Royal ... form Court statement said.

. n. IRIC Their production, a new the TE play about the historic said. ony of Umm Qais, is entitled "Gadara."

Mr. Gillham, who has worked for the last 20 years with theatre-in-education companies in England and Wales, was hosted by the foundation's TIE programme in cooperation with the ministry and the British Council to put together this production, according to the

"Gadara," said the state- school ment, adheres to TIE guide-

U.S. embassy to Radi

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American embassy in Am-man will hold its third annual computer show Feb. 22, 23 and 24, in the Philadelphia Hotel, an embassy statement

This year's show will be co-sponsored by Tantash Information Group, Sinam Inlegrated Systems, Byte-Middle East Magazine, AC-CESS. Hertz/Shakhshir Rent-A-Car, Al-Aswag daily newspaper, Aramex, Jordan

WHAT'S GO

The following listings are compiled frank the daily Arabic press. Readers the listed time and place with the or FILMS ☆ Film entitled "Dr. Strangelove"

at 7:00 p.m. Special programme: "Holiday U Heritage Tour" at the American

PLAY Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Ar

Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00

SEMINAR Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "Th to the International System" with Mr. Laith Shbailat at the Royal C

EXHIBITION Exhibition of oil paintings by S Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports Ci 688701).

Exhibition of handicrafts by Hass Royal Cultural Centre. Photo exhibition at the Friends of "Young America" exhibit (with p Americans of all ages) at the An Exhibition of works by Qasim Al

Bank Complex Gallery. * Book exhibition at the Royal Cu

in th In the la ware gy, th publi view forma

. See the called on Indones; N. Security Come reamananal sanctions impac ne of a U.S. and Omar Musara Al Mas nad asked Indonesia wing tresh enter - - ement in the locket should rever anctions should - Sugation has been care

bu Nidal members nolding six mask picion of plant the Palestina k from the Alu line and the state of the state general in Gaza. A 60 sere among the 112- Ders of the Abdotte activists in any good Arafur Said in a new production of the case of the cas Council was in cospodic Mr. Arafai.

HIJAZ RAILWA Comments Sold and Sol MARKET PRICES Same to be the second second

Active Makeman Inc. And the second s

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma campaign launched by the Queen Alia Tuesday visits districts in Irbid Governo- Fund for Social Development (Petra rate as part of the Ramadan charity photo)

Princess Basma visits Irbid governorate

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday visited the districts of Taybeh and North Mazar in Irbid Governorate as part of the annual Ramadan charity campaign launched by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The Princess met with representatives of various charitable and other local organisations and expressed QAF's determination to help socioeconomic development in the rural regions and local com-

Princess Basma, who is

chairman of QAF's board of trustees, donated a total of JD 8,500 to three local charitable societies operating in the two districts.

She expressed hope that she will continue meeting with the representatives of the local community, whom she urged to exert more efforts towards serving their district and nation.

After inspecting the services and plans to the charitable societies of the two districts, the Princess monitored assistance to 700 needy fami-

She was briefed on progress on 12 different income generating projects and vocational training courses funded by QAF in Eidun and neighbouring areas.

Former parliament member Mohammad Alawneh and other dignatories welcomed the Princess with speeches at a public rally.

Deputy Governor of Irbid Ismail Jarrah and heads of local institutions accompanied Princess Basma on her

NHF brings new play to stage in 'dynamic educational medium'

almost two months of preparation the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre-in-Education Programme (TIE), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the British Council, Tuesday night brought the efforts of British playwright and director Geoff Gillham and a group of Jordanian actors, directors and play- the actors, who assumed the wrights to the Royal Cultural it role of teachers; this trans-Centre (RCC) stage: a Royal ... formed the play into a dyna-Court statement said. ... ni mio education medium for

Their production, a new TIE play about the historic city of Umm Qais, is entitled Gadara." Mr. Gillham.

worked for the last 20 years with theatre-in-education companies in England and Wales, was hosted by the foundation's TIE programme in cooperation with the ministry and the British Council to put together this production, according to the

"Gadara," said the statement, adheres to TIE guidelines which include full student participation, simple decor and accessories, and a limited number of actors and 'student participants. It has seven actors, one facilitator (Lina Tell, director of the TIE programme) and one director (Mr. Gillham).

During the play, 15 stu-dents from the Jubilee School in Amman interacted with the students, the statement

"Gadara" is the second TIE play produced by the (NHF) for schools in the country.

According to the state-ment, it will continue to be performed for government schools until the end of Ramadan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

After Eid Al-Fitr, the play will be performed at any school provided the school's officials make an advance

According to the statement, the play is geared for student audiences from grades seven to nine and can accommodate up to 30 student participants. Tuesday night's perform-

ance was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, who deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor, and In'am Mufti, advisor to Queen Noor, the statement

The TIE programme, established in 1987 by the NHF, is mainly funded by the Royal Endowment for Cuiture and Education, and is oned by the Ministries of Education and Culture.

TIE is an educational medium that engages students to actively participate in the learning process. It provokes students to ask questions, explore issues and find answers that satisfy

It also enhances appreciation of theatre as an art form in the young.

U.S. embassy to hold computer show

American embassy in Amman will hold its third annual computer show Feb. 22, 23 and 24, in the Philadelphia Hotel, an embassy statement

This year's show will be co-sponsored by Tantash Information Group, Sinam Integrated Systems, Byte-Middle East Magazine, AC-CESS, Hertz/Shakhshir Rent-A-Car, Al-Aswaq daily newspaper, Aramex, Jordan Radio Paging Company and and peripheral devices, the Coca Cola, the statement statement said.

Twenty-one local companies, representing many U.S. computer hardware and software firms, will take part in this two-day show.

In addition to displaying the latest in computer hardware and software technology, the show will provide the public with an opportunity to view data processing and information systems technology as well as new accessories

Catalogues and other promotional literature from U.S. computer and computer-related firms will also be on display, it said.

The show, which is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, will be open to the public Thursday and Friday. February 23 and 24 from 10:00 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILMS

☆ Film entitled "Dr. Strangelove" at the British Council

☆ Special programme: "Holiday USA Series — Black Heritage Tour" at the American Center at 2:30 p.m.

☆ Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Are Not Yourself" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

☆ Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The Human Alternative, to the International System" with the participation of Mr. Laith Shbailat at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00

EXHIBITIONS

🖈 Exhibition of oil paintings by Sabah Ibrahim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection (Tel.

A Exhibition of handicrafts by Hasmig Kuymjian at the Royal Cultural Centre.

☆ Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology Centre.

☆ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring) Americans of all ages) at the American Centre. ★ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing

Bank Complex Gallery.

businessman

denies charge

(Continued from page 1)

ator which is effectively the

He found the news of the

investigation "intimidating"

and would be contctiong the

DTI with legal representation and calling on his parliament

member for help on his re-

The group of 27 repre-

tum.

August 1990.

role I am playing,

British

Mr. Kohl's liaison with the German intelligence agen-

cies, Bernd Schmidbauer, has acknowledged meeting secretly in October 1993 with Iranian spy chief Ali Falla-hian. He hinted he was trying to win the release of foreigners held in Iran. Washington sharply protested the German-Iranian contacts.

Israeli officials have said that Arad was held for more than two years by Mustafa

back claims they were trying Dirais, the former intelli-to wean Iran of "terrorism." Dirais, the former intelli-gence chief of the Shiite miligence chief of the Shiite militia Amal in Lebanon. Israel said Sheikh Dirani then "sold" Arad for \$300,000 to Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon.

Israel abducted Sheikh Dirani from Lebanon last May to try to get more in-formation. Israel also holds as a bargaining chip Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group kidnapped by Israeli commandos from Lebanon in 1989.

Reshuffle upsets Israeli coalition

Rabin confirms Iran contacts

(Continued from page 12)

(Continued from page 1)

the June 1992 elections. Leaders of Meretz, whose army radio. votes are crucial to Mr. Rabin, hinted at a cabinet crisis if Mr. Rabin did not "adequately compensate"

sentatives from the food, the party. pharmaceuticals, water and road building industries is the decide what steps we will first major British delegation take to foil this unfair decito travel to Iraq since sancsion," said Mr. Sarid after tions were imposed when Baghdad invaded Kuwait in the cabinet met in a special 20-minute session.

"Meretz will not receive a The group arrived here late portfolio, and this has of Friday and were due to leave course prompted great rage Baghdad on Wedneseday afamong my colleagues," said ter talks with officials from Mr. Cohen. the ministries of foreign "We always saw the prime affairs, oil, trade, industry

minister as bead of the whole and health, he said. government, not just his own A report on the future of party, and to my dismay he Iraqi-British relations would took the the easy route, padbe handed to the government ding his fellow party memon their return, Mr. Sykes bers, and we cannot take this

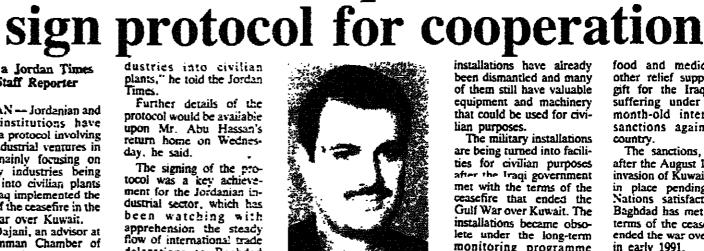
lying down," Mr. Cohen told

Israeli media have said Mr. Rabin, whose popularity has been eroded by killings of Israelis by suicide bombers opposed to the peace process "We will gather shortly to and by government waffling on economic issues, is planning to reshuffle his cabinet later this year ahead of elections in late 1996.

Labour Party leaders have been holding talks with retired army chief Ehud Barak, who they say could restore Labour's tarnished image if he were named defence

Mr. Rabin has been both prime minister and defence minister since he took over from the hardline Likud in a 1992 vote

minister.



Jordanian, Iraqi industrialists

Khaldun Abu Hassan

held next month when an Iraqi delegation would visit

During the visit, the delegation members were scheduled to visit several of the sites where Iraq is converting military production units for civilian use and determine the extent and scope of work needed before they could start pro-

Dozens of Iraqi military

been dismantled and many of them still have valuable equipment and machinery that could be used for civilian purposes.

The military installations are being turned into facilities for civilian purposes after the Traqi government met with the terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf War over Kuwait. The installations became obsolete under the long-term monitoring programme that the United Nations has set up in Iraq in line with the ceasefire terms.

Jordanian industrialists will also probe possibilities of rebuilding some of the Iraqi industrial units which were bombed out during the heavy carpet bombing by the allies during the Gulf War.

The Jordanian team now in Iraq includes three members of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry and representatives of several indust-

The delegation has taken with it a 16-truck convoy of other relief supplies as a gift for the Iraqi people suffering under the 56month-old international sanctions against their

The sanctions, imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, remain in place pending United Nations satisfaction that Baghdad has met with the terms of the ceasefire that ended the war over Kuwait in early 1991.

The Amman Chamber of Industry has established what businessmen describe as a very good working relationship with Iraq, particularly in the past four vears when it closely coordinated with the Iraqi private sector and filled in the vacuum created by the international isolation imposed on the country's in-

stitutions. Recently, the Amman Chamber of Industry was successful in mediating a business dispute over prices and lifting a logiam in Jordanian vegetable oil exports to Iraq.

Private firm to buy 54% of Inter. Continental

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and

Iraqi institutions have

signed a protocol involving

joint industrial ventures in

Iraq, mainly focusing on

military industries being

turned into civilian plants

after Iraq implemented the

terms of the ceasefire in the

Ali Dajani, an advisor at

the Amman Chamber of

Industry, said the protocol,

signed by a Jordanian de-

legation headed by Amman

Chamber of Industry

Chairman Khaldoun Abu

Hassan and the Iraqi Fed-

eration of Industries, in-

volved the private sectors of the two countries.

the mechanism for coop-

eration between the Am-

man Chamber of Industry

and the Iraqi Federation of

Industries in industrial

cooperation," said Mr. Da-

dustrialists' participation in converting Iraqi military in-

"It includes Jordanian in-

"The protocol sets out

1991 war over Kuwait.

AMMAN — The Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the investment arm of the government, has accepted an offer by a private sector firm to buy 54 per cent of the ownership of the Inter. Continental Hotel in Amman, and a decision endorsing the deal is expected to be taken next week.

The offer came from a partnership led by Zara Investment Company with two local banks, Reuter reported. The identities of the banks were not disclosed.

Independent sources also identified the buyer as Zara Investment Company, whose Chairman Khalil Talhouni also chairs the Cairo-Amman ing commercial banks.

plants," he told the Jordan

Further details of the

protocol would be available

upon Mr. Abu Hassan's

return home on Wednes-

The signing of the pro-

tocol was a key achieve-

ment for the fordanian in-

dustrial sector, which has

been watching with

apprehension the steady

flow of international trade

delegations to Baghdad

through Amman and re-

ports of "billions of dol-

lars" worth of "post-

sanctions" contracts being

Adnan Kudsi, president

of the Iraqi Federation of

Industries, was quoted as

saying in the Al Oadissiya

newspaper of Baghdad that

the agreement signed with the Amman Chamber of

Industry "allocates tasks to

be undertaken by each par-

ty in joint projects in indus-

try, food, textiles and con-

Further discussions en

specific projects would be

discussed there.

day, he said.

Zara Investment is lordan's largest private sector company with about \$100 million in investments in the tourism sector. Mr. Talbouni was a minority shareholder and vice-president of the board of directors of the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company, a holding firm that owns the Jordan Inter.Continental.

The Zara offer, believed to be around JD 20 million for two million shares of the Jordan Hotels and Tourism Company, came after the JIC invited local and foreign bids and was the highest among the offers received by the corporation for the 382-room

The JIC owns 87.7 per cent

value shares of the Jordan Hotels, and Tourism Company and the deal with Zara, expected to be approved by the JIC board of directors next week, would mean the IIC stake in the hotel would be reduced to 32.7 per cent, and Zara will have 54 per

principle agreed to sell 63.3 per cent of its shareholding in the Inter Continental Hotel to a group of Arab and Jorda-nian investors," Reuters quoted Mohammad Bataynch, general manager of the JIC, as saying. The shares of the holding

company were traded at an average of JD 6.4 in Novem-

According to 1993 statistics of the holding company, Jordanians — the JIC, local own 99.363 per cent of its equity; Arabs and fore.gners own the rest. The market capitalisation of the company in 1993 was JD 23,513,175 compared with JD 7,996,680

The company's revenues were JD 7.78 million in 1993 "The corporation has in and net profits after taxes were JD 703,690. It distributed a 10 per cent dividend in 1993 after registering a 19.18 per cent return on paidin capital and 11.79 per cent on equity.

Total assets of the company were valued at JD 13.38 million at the end of 1993, and liabilities at JD 5,769,257.

With the expected formal acceptance of the Zara offer, the government is assured of

majority Jordanian ownership of the first major public sector entity it is selling to the private sector in line with a gradual privatisation drive, which is expected to pick up momentum later his year.

However, the bids for Inter.Continental Hotel were open fully for foreign inves-

Mr. Batayneh said earlier that the proceeds from the sale of the JIC stake in the Inter.Continental would be channelled to other investments in tourism and indust-

rial ventures. The JIC owns majority shares in several other hotels and tourism establishments in Jordan, and it is expected that it would gradually reduce its capital involvement in the market and channel the

DEF plans to open new | Aqaba region authority announces offices to give loans land for sale or lease to investors

AMMAN (Petra) - The Development and Employment Fund (DEF) will soon open several offices in the various governorates and districts to offer soft loans to heads of needy families who plan to start small size businesses, according to Fund Director

General Ali Qabbaa. Gen. Qabbaa said in a statement Tuesday that the DEF expects to receive at least 1,200 applications for loans for such businesses during 1995, and the DEF board will grant the loans out of its 1995 fiscal budget of JD 10.5 million as provided by state budget.

The DEF, which was created in 1991 to help finance

projects undertaken by poor families and fight off unemployment and poverty, last year granted JD 3.28 million in soft loans to individuals either directly or through charitable societies, said

Gen. Qabbaa. The fund plans to offer short-term vocational training courses to the borrowers before granting them loans, and it hopes to help create no less than 3,750 jobs through new loans this year, said Gen. Qabbaa.

In 1994 the DEF financed 813 small size income generating projects that created 1,384 jobs for the unemployed, added the fund director.

open for investors and entrepreneurs to buy or lease areas along the southern coast of Aqaba, especially for tourism purposes.

ARA has prepared plans for laying infrastructure services such as water, electricity and road networks in these areas which would attract investors from Jordan, Arab and non-Arab coun-

AQABA (Petra) - Presitries, said Dr. Khasawneh. dent of the Aqaba Region Expressing his optimism Authority (ARA) Fayez that in the peace era the Khasawneh said in a state-Aqaba region would witness ment Tuesday that the door is a boom in tourism, Dr. Khasawneh said that his office has received several requests by investors for projects in the region, and he has briefed them on the ARA infrastructure plans to help their pro-

jects achieve success. Dr. Khasawneh commented on a recent announcement by the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), that it plans to operate two daily flights from Am-

man to Aqaba, saying that such a move would encour-

He said that the ARA plans allow for industrial and commercial businesses to be started in the Agaba region, but the main target of the plans is the tourism sector.

He said the plans include among other things the establishment of a cultural centre. a sports city and a community college, as well as a zoo which will be located at the northern approach to the

Petra noted that the sub-

committee on water issues

had reached an agreement

under which Jordan would

port city.

RJ to start using Israeli airspace

(Continued from page I) of Jordan or any other neigh-

bouring country. "But air routes have to be established first in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) before actual commercial flights could start,' said an expert in civil aviation, noting that no such "corridors" ever existed in view of the state of hostilities between Israel and the Arab states since the creation of

Furthermore, "it is not even known whether Israel would like to open its airspace for overflights of airlines other than RJ," said the ex-

(Continued from page 12)

back potential looters with

Both facilities are magnets

in this impoverished Horn of

Africa country as the U.N.

troops abandon damaged

equipment which any Somali

can repair in a matter of

Most Somalis appear to

hours.

Israel is seeking overflight rights through the airspace of

the Jewish state.

Saudi Arabia so that the flight time of El Al flights to Asia and the Far East could be cut down.

Saudi Arabia has not publicly commented on the Israeli quest, but is believed to be hesitant to allow overflight rights to the Jewish state before substantial progress is made in the Syrian-Israeli track of peace talks.

In Tuesday's meeting of the joint follow-up commit-tee at Eilat, Jordan and Israel reviewed the progress of negotiations under way between sub-committees dealing with specific sectors, Petra reported. The joint committee set a timetable for the sub-committees to meet during the next two weeks, it

expect fighting for looting

rights and control of the port

and airport, with their lucra-

tive fees and possibilites for

importing arms and ammuni-

already equipped with some

of the experimental crowd-

The Italian marines are

U.S.troops will be carrying, bullets.

finalise plans to store water collected from the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers and submit the plans to the Jordanian government for onward presentation to the European Union (EU) to study financing possibilities.
The Eilat meeting also reviewed progress made by the subcommittee working on a trade accord "after Jordan

submitted proposals in recent weeks," Petra said. The agency added that the proposals would be studied by the joint follow-up committee on Wednesday.

The next session of the committee will be held in Deir Alla on the Jordanian side of the Jordan Valley on

March 13. Adm. Bolongarn said, and might acquire the others after

demonstrations in the next

few days by the U.S. marines. The weapons are designed to immobilise rather than to kill. They include sticky foam shot from a gun as a "high-tech lasso," barrier foam laced with tear-gas, wooden control weapons the and rubber pellets instead of

Russians seize road into Grozny

Italy will not mediate in Somalia

Dudayev. "The only viable scenario ern partners." is an ultimatum for the federal troops demanding a total arms surrender by the mili-tants," Mr. Grachev said on Monday.

The estimate of civilian deaths by Mr. Kovalyov's summit around May 8.

(Continued from page 12), office was likely to stir more unease among Russia's west-

> U.S. President Bill Clinton is already considering whether, in the light of the Chechen conflict, he should accept President Boris Yeltsin's invitation to a Moscow

The Kovalyov report, quoted by Interfax, gave a breakdown for civilian deaths

in the two months up to Jan.

They comprised 3,700 children below the age of 15; 4,650 women over 15 years; 2.650 men over the age of 50 and 13,350 unarmed men between the ages of 15 and 50.

Mexican rights group says prisoners show signs of torture

MEXICO CITY (Agencies)
— A government human rights inspector says four of seven people arrested two weeks ago for alleged ties with Indian rebels showed signs of having been tortured. All seven said they were forced to sign confessions af-

ter they were arrested and were not allowed to read what they had allegedly con-The allegations were con-

tained in a 39-page report, released late Monday, on 24 complaints the government's human rights commission received following President Emesto Zedillo's Feb. 9. стасkdown on the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Jorge Madrazo Cuellar. president of the commission, read the report to journalists and officials in Mexico City. He also condemned ranchers and landowners for harassing Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz over the weekend in the southern state of Chiapas.

The ranchers and landowners accuse the bishop of complicity with the rebels, who rose up in Chiapas last year to demand better living conditions for Indian peasants and clean elections.

More than 30 people were arrested in the crackdown on the rebels and the government claims it has found rebel safe houses and weapons caches in Chiapas, and two

BAYON TEMPLE, Cambo-

dia (Agencies) - Cambo-

much this current regime, but

I accept it," he told a crowd

of about 200 people including

government officials and

Among those who heard

his remarks were First Prime

Minister Ranariddh Who was

seated behind his father,

U.S. Ambassador Charles

Twining and Japanese

Ambassador Yukio Imaga-

elaborate but firmly ruled out

any desire to return to main-

willing... to take power," he said. "It would be de-

trimental to the trend of the

to take power. Even if, according to my Chinese doc-

tor, I'm still strong. I'm not going to play such a game

which is more dangerous than

King Sihanouk's speech

was given in the shade of the

12th century Bayon Temple.

home to King Sihanouk's

forebears who once ruled a

mighty empire from their

He said he would not

launch a constitutional coup

against the current govern-

ment, appointed to power

following U.N.-organised

Referring to a letter from

Hun Sen expressing concern

elections in May 1993.

the present government."

present government.

stream politics.

King Sihanouk did not

"I cannot and I will not be

"So, no way for Sihanouk

Western ambassadors.

Five men and two women were arrested in the Veracruz town of Yanga on Feb. 9. The report said commission investigators and doctors cer-tified that four of the men

showed definite signs of tor-It said other complaints made to the commission are under investigation.

The Zapatista rebellion began Jan. 1, 1994, and at least 145 people died in fighting until a ceasefire was declared 12 days later.

The Mexican army has moved into rebel zones, and the insurgents have fled into the jungle along with thousands of sympathisers from area villages.

Peace efforts in southern Mexico have suffered a setback with both the government and Maya Indian rebels refusing to drop their rival claims over a huge swathe of jungle territory.
The army has seized

dozens of towns and villages in a virtually bloodless 11-day drive deep into rebel-held areas and has no intention of giving up its gains, hoping to push rebel leaders into negotiations from a position of weakness.

But the Zapatista National Liberation Army says it will not sit down for talks until the government pulls back its troops and allows thousasnds of pro-rebel refugees to return to their villages in the

southern state of Chiapas. Zapatista leaders Sunday warned of a return to all-out guerrilla war.

"The army continues cornering us, taking us to an alley with no way out except to die or fight. We will fight if they make us, we will move onto a guerrilla war if they make us," two senior rebel commanders said in a statement released here.

Although both sides say they want a peaceful solution to the peasant rebellion which began at the start of 1994, their insistence on maintaining their territorial claims suggest the current military and political stalemate will continue.

Meanwhile, Mexican au-

thorities say they are con-cerned about a rash of alleged human rights abuses by U.S. law enforcement agents against illegal Mexican immigrants along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Marco Antonio Garcia Blanco, Mexico's consul in the southwest city of Tucson, Arizona, said there have been "cases of substantial human rights violations" along the 3,200-kilometres (nearly 2,000-miles common border.

Garcia Blanco said in an interview that Mexico had filed complaints with U.S. authorities about the inci-dents, which ranged from allegations of verbal abuse to physical harm and excessive use of force against illegal

Firearms were allegedly in-volved in incidents reported between August and January, five of which resulted in

deaths or woundings.

Members of the U.S. Border Patrol acknowledged that abuses had occurred, but did not disclose any details.

Migration issues, including the alleged human rights violations, will be on the agenda at a joint border con-ference on Feb. 22 in the Arizona border town of Nogales, which is expected to draw 20 officials from Arizona and the neighbouring Mexican state of Sonora.

While stressing that "there are problems," Mr. Garcia Blanco said the positive side of the equation was that "the authorities and representa-tives of the states of Arizona and Sonora have an exemplary relationship" characterised by a willingness to resolve their differences.

"Here, there is not the kind of anti-immigrant climate seen in other parts of the United States," Mr. Garcia Blanco said, in an apparent reference to California and Florida, where there is growing resentment of the social costs of illegal im-

Thirty of Mexico's 40 U.S. consulates are concertrated in border states, three of them in Arizona: in Tucson, Phoenix and Nogales.

Oldest person still mischievous

ARLES, France (R) - She was born in the year Bizet's Carmen was first staged and Tolstoy published Anna Karenina, and a year before Alexthe telephone.

Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, the oldest person in the world, celebrated her 120th birthday Tuesday, still going strong with a wit and mischievous smile which she calls the key to her longevity.

but steepest hurdles yet to come Republican setbacks can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Most notably, Republicans tried and failed to revive a missile defence system. They also tried to make it constitutionally impossible to raise income-tax rates without a three-fifths majority vote, but didn't have the

Mexican army soldiers stationed in the village of La Garrucha in the state of Chiapas in Mexico play a friendly game of soccer. The National Liberation Army (AFP photo)

U.S. House Republicans set fast pace;

House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia has called the Republicans' success rate "pretty astonishing."
So far the Republicans

have fulfilled opening-day commitments to reform internal house affairs and apply all federal laws to Congress, and the House has passed three complete sections of the campaign-season contract:

- A balanced budget amendment to the constitution and line-item veto authority for the president granting him the right to veto specific spending measures in a bill. Senate approval of the budget amendment is uncertain at this point. Even if it passes. 38 state legislatures must then ratify it.

- A stiff crime bill that replaces crime prevention and police hiring programmes enacted last year with \$10 billion in block grants to states and countries. Senate prospects are precarious, and President Bill Clinton is thre-

atening a veto.

— A national security bill that reduces U.S. support for U.S. peacekeeping and restricts the president's authority to place U.S. troops under foreign commanders. The dministration says the House bill is an unacceptable infringement upon executive powers; Senate prosof new regulations. Both chambers have already passed bills making it harder to impose new, unfunded regulations on states. Negotiators are working out a House-Senate compromise that Mr. Clinton is expected

 Legal reforms, including limits on punitive damages. Mr. Gingrich says he expects a difficult fight because of trial lawyers' lobbying clout.

 A consitutional amendment to limit congressional terms. Republican leaders refuse to say which way the vote will go.

— Welfare reform. Huge

block grants are the likely outcome, after huge disagreements over what to require of governors and recipients. Some type of Senate bill is virtually assured, but Mr. Clinton's signature is

- Revenue measures, including a \$500-per-child tax credit and a cut in the capital gains tax rate. The contract promises are likely to be scaled back by senators worried about the budget deficit.

House democrats, enduring what amounts to a forced march, gripe that the pace is too fast to allow thinking and the results so far haven't addressed the core economic problems of American fami-

Nevertheless, the House expects to complete action on what Mr. Gingrich calls "the most decisive legislative proposal since the new deal (launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt) began in 1933" in time to recess for Eastern on April 6. That's eight days shy of 100.

Meanwhile on a night of polite competition and a few pointed disagreements, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas took a moment to capture the unifying spirit of the room: The next president is not going to be Bill Clinton.'
But if not, then who?

Blur sweeps **Brits with** four awards

LONDON (AP) — The pop band Blur won four Brit Music Awards including top

British artists of the year. The first band to take four prizes in the Pop Music Awards, Blur also won Best Album for Parklife, Best Video and Best Single Madonna headed the line-up for the presentation show at London's Alexandra Palace The awards, sponsored by Britannia Music are voted by an academy of 500 people largely from the record indus ry. Elton John received a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the music industry. Paul Weller, former leader of the Jam and the Style Council, was named best British solo artist, narrowly beating Eric Clapton, Seal, Morrissey and Elvis Costello. Best British female solo artist was Eddi Reader, formerly lead singer with Fairground Attraction. Best British dance act was M Peo ple and best British newcomer was Oasis. The film sound track prize was won by Oscar-nominated Pulp Fic tion, beating The Lion King, Four Weddings And A Funeral, Forrest Gump and Philadelphia. Nellee Hooper won best British producer for work with Madonna, among many other stars. Tony Mortimer, star of East 17, per 🖎 formed with his band from a wheelchair after falling off. the stage during rehearsals.

Nonja the artistic orangutan

VIENNA (AFP) — Nonja is

and sells her paintings at \$400 5

apiece. Her talent first

the age of 19 (equivalent to

emerged five years ago at a

medical seminar, and now at

a charming orangutan artist who has had four exhibitions

35 years in human terms), the great ape "has made enor-mous progress," according to her tutor Claudia Kment. They work together at the s-Schoenbrunn Zoo, reputedly the world's oldest, set in the grounds of the old imperial palace on the outskirts of the Austrian capital. Ms. Kment remembers how it all started. The zoo had already trained a chimpanzee called Jonny to draw, and wanted to experiment with an orangutan. 'We showed her what to do. She was very curious and copied our gestures with great enthusiasm," Ms. going off the paper and scrib-bling all over the table, and she often used to eat the crayons." Then little by little Nonia learned to concentrate carefully enough to keep the drawing on the sheet of paper and began producing harmo-nious lines and shading. It was such a startling contrast to the "disastrous" behaviour of her companion Vladimir. "He destroyed everything, crayons, paintbrushes, he threw the pots of paint about and howled," Ms. Kment recalled. "He showed absolutely not the slightest interest in the activity and became aggressive every time." Nonja now uses non-toxic colours which she selects after due deliberation, and only takes an occasional nibble. She tends towards sombre tones, browns, deep reds, black yellow she avoids most of the time. The works are "abstract," comparable to the output of a human infant of two or three years. The amazing monkey has even devised a technique which gives scope for lots of variations: Clearly enjoying her-self, Nonja flicks drops of paint at the paper with a brush, creating a new visual effect. As artists go, this simian is quite a perfectionist. She will only paint early in the morning, for about 30

Thai police nab man who spoke with many voices

BANGKOK (R) - Police

minutes, an hour at the most.

said Monday they have allegedly conned hundreds of thousands of dollars from people by imitating the voices. of businessmen, bank managers and senior government officials. Krittiya Nokkerd was held Sunday after 2 three-month investigation since his latest scam in November when he protended to be a state oil time manager seeking payment from an army fuel supplier police said. They said Mi Krittiya, 33, painstakingly, is searched his victims, the financial dealings, busines relationships and their voices before striking with a perfect ly plausible-sounding phone request for cash to handed to a "colleague"



World

Paper: Why MOSCOW (Agencies)

Lawmakers, journalists and even Harvard students have had little trouble contacting Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, but Russian soldiers and sleuths cannot seem to find Russia's public enemy The daily newspaper Izves-

tia Tuesday questioned the effectiveness and professionalism" of the Interior Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service. suggesting they don't really want to capture, Mr. Dudayev.

Russia declared the rebellious leader of the breakaway Republic of Chechenya a "wanted criminal" in January, but efforts to apprehend him have been little more than empty intimidations, the newspaper said.
"(The Russian investiga-

tors) mysteriously begin to wink their eyes and flap their tongues, hinting that the days of the Chechen leader are numbered, he's surrounded. his movements are controlled," Izvestia said. Yet Mr. Dudayev continues to elude

Mr. Dudayev recently metwith Russian businessman Konstantin Borovi and gives frequent interviews to Rus-" sian and foreign journalists in the Chehen capital, Grozny, and elsewhere. In one recent questions posed by students

and professors from Harvard

Burmese re

MAE SOT, Thailand (AP) - One of the world's longest-running insurgencies abandoned its last major stronghold Tuesday after intensive shelling and gassing by Burmese troops, rebel and Thai sources said.

rage of artillery on the Karen rebel base of Kawmoora from midnight until 3 a.m., forcing 1,400 rebels to aban-

views they did not have enough weapons and ammunition to defend the base from the attack by thousands of Burmese sol-

They said the Burmese

A Bangkok-based support group for the Burmese opposition. Burma Issues. said in a statement that the "poison shells," interspersed with regular artillery, caused disorientation and uncon-

sciousness. The group said an unknown number of rebels

LONDON (R) — The future

of a world treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, one of the major concerns of the post-cold war era, may now be in question because of disputes over Whether and how to extend the pact.

The non-proliferation treaty (NPT) came into force in 1970 for a duration of 25 years and is up for renewal at a U.N. conference in New York which starts in April. Covering more than 170 countries, it effectively sanctions five official nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — while committing other signatories to renounce

dia's King Norodom Siha-Your Excellency, you can be sure I have always been honnouk reiterated Tuesday he has no desire for executive est. I hate coup d'etat.
"I was a victim in 1970 of a power despite a dislike for the Phnom Penh government coup d'etat by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak, my cousin. And led by his son, Prince Norofishing industry. vou know that was the begindom Ranariddh. ning of the misery, of the "I do not admire very

Sihanouk replied: "I said,

suffering, of the humiliation of Cambodia." In his speech Tuesday, King Sihanouk gave no reason for his remarks about government but Sunday, the 72-year-old monarch strongly criticised Phnom Penh for selling out the nation's

He rebuked Cambodia's rulers for allowing massive deforestation which he warned would turn the country into a desert.

Speaking at a ceremony to provide families of Khmer Rouge defectors with emergency food rations, King Sihanouk warned the country's leaders that actions spoke louder than words when it came to protecting Cambodia's forest heritage.

"Before the Lon Nol coup, 73 per cent of our country was covered with forest. Today, according to figures which I think are very optimistic, there is only 43 per cent. I think we have less

than 40 per cent," he said. A logging deal authorised by co-premiers Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen, signed in Kuala Lumpur in August during a visit by Prince Ranariddh, gives a 60year logging concession covering four per cent of the entire country or 800,000 hectares (1.97 million acres) to the Malaysian Samling Corporation.

about his ambitions, King Sihanouk attributed recent floods and drought to the deforestation, and said overlogging had created siltation problems which could ruin Cambodia's freshwater

Cambodia's monarch, in a feisty mood, spoke briefly about the military situation.

He agreed with senior army commander Lieutenant-General Nhek Bun Chay that it would be. folly to launch an attack to capture Preah Vihear Temple which stands atop the rugged Dangrek Mountains just inside Cambodia's northern border with Thailand.

"It's difficult to attack rean yinear from the Cambodian side," he said.

The King said Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot had eroded his last vestiges of political support by ordering his guerrilla fighters to attack

rural villages.
King Sihanouk Tuesday made an impassioned appeal to thieves to stop plundering ancient, artifact-filled Angkor Temples.

"I beg all thieves, all Khmer antique lovers, Cambodian nationals and foreigners, to stop looting our

"I ask them to pity Cambodia and to let all Khmer people live with all their treasures," the monarch said.

Meanwhile Cambodian troops killed five Khmer Rouge rebels and wounded several others after the guer-rillas tried to overrun military positions in northwest Battambang province, Deputy Governor Nam Tum said



Thailand tests second AIDS vaccine

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand began tests pating had produced antibodies against the of a second AIDS vaccine Tuesday, injecting Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV). intravenous drug users who tested HIV- Thailand's National Commission on AIDS negative with the synthetic vaccine. Twenty estimates that as many as 700,000 people are volunteers were to be given the experimental HIV-positive or suffer from full-blown Acvaccine and 10 others were to receive a quired Immune Deficiency Syndrome water-and-glucose placebo in the trial, con- (AIDS). Some 4,500 Thais have died of ducted by Mahidol University and the Public AIDS. The photograph shows Dr. Thawip Health Ministry, with World Health Orga- Kittiyaporn (right) of Bangkok's Mahidol nisation support. The volunteers were re- University injects the experimental HTV/ cruited from Bangkok drug rehabilitation AIDS vaccine into the arm of an unidentified clinics. A first round of AIDS vaccine trials intravenous drug user as part of a second-last year on volunteers who were not drug round trial of a U.S.-made vaccine to combat users showed that 10 out of 24 people partici- AIDS (AFP photo).

Sihanouk criticises government In comments Sunday, King at 120

ander Graham Bell invented

Blind, almost deaf and confined to a wheelchair, she chose a black crepe dress for the occasion, remarking: "This is good stuff, it'll last a

long time."



Calment lunched on crab, duck and champagne with friends at her retirement home in Arles, in the south of France, before sharing a mammoth chocolate birthday cake with 80 guests, including France's health minister.

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — EU farm ministers Tuesday

held a second day of negotia-

tions in an effort to break the

Union's 18-month deadlock

on maximum journey times

The EU's French presiden-

cy, which has indicated that it

will not schedule any further

discussions of the issue dur-

ing its six-month term in the EU chair if there is not a

breakthrough at this meeting.

tabled a complex comprom-

ise package in an effort to

bridge the north-south divide

that has produced the stand-

The northern EU states,

under pressure from animal

welfare campaigners, have

been campaigning for limits

of between eight and 15

hours on the maximum time

animals can be transported

across Europe and for strict

controls to be imposed on

hauliers covering issues such

as the amount of space each

animal has in lornes and the

regularity of feeding and

transported to the south.

For cows, sheep and goats

a maximum of 24 hours is

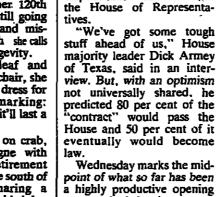
envisaged with two hours rest

periods obligatory each eight

hours. As for the younger

eight hours.

for livestock.



Wednesday marks the midpoint of what so far has been a highly productive opening run marked by iron party discipline and virtually no distractions.

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Republicans have

abandoned Congress'

leisurely pace as they rush to deliver on their "Contract With America." But nearly

halfway to their 100-day

deadline, much more than

half the job remains undone.

vet to come.

idential veto.

public.

And the stickiest issues are

From a balanced budget

amendment to tax cuts, from

slashing regulations to re-vamping welfare, every item

in the contract is poll-tested

and highly popular with the

Still, lawmakers are dis-

covering as they race from

item to item that some prop-

osals need improvement.

some are divisive and some

could hit a brick wall in the

Senate or encounter a pres-

course dinner in which the

first couple of courses are

bland and acceptable to ev-

erybody. As it goes on, the

dishes get more exotic and

harder to digest," said Rut-

gers University political sci-

The contract, a campaign

document that hundreds of

republican House candidates

signed and ran on last fall,

pledged votes on 10 legisla-

tive packages in the first 100

days of the 104th Congress if

Republicans won control of .

entist Ross Baker.

"It's a little bit like a multi-







Former French film actress now "veteran" animal rights campaigner Brigitte Bardot in vociferous mood as she joins other protestors of local animal protection groups in a demonstration against the transportation of live

animals a new journey could not begin before 12 hours

watering intervals.

But the southern states, Pigs could be transported particularly Italy and Greece. for up to 24 hours with only a have resisted any limits, arguing that the northern. stop for watering obligatory every eight hours and if the carrying equipment meets meat-exporting, countries EU standards, the maximum have an economic interest in encouraging the slaughter of journey is 48 hours.

animals in their slaughter-For journeys by sea, a 12houses rather than have them hour rest would be obligatory at the port of landing unless the period of sea transport The French compromise forms part of a general route was based on applying diffeplan indicated in advance. rent standards to different Although the French prop-

categories of animals. osals fall significantly short of The toughest standard would be applied to veal the initial demands made by calves, lambs and kids for countries like Britain and whom a 15 hour maximum Germany, the northern states journey time would apply have a powerful incentive to with a two-hour stop becomagree to the deal. ing mandatory after the first

In July the EU presidency passes to Spain, who will be succeeded by Italy. Neither country is expected to make a major effort to broker a compromise since the existing legislative vacuum at the European level suits them perfectly well. They are also under little domestic pressure to address the animal welfare Britain's problem is parti-

cularly acute since the ferry companies which cross the English channel, responding to a wave of public protest about the length of animals journeys, are refusing to carry livestock, bringing the British export industry to a virtual standstill.

British Farm Minister William Waldegrave was left facing a difficult choice between accepting a deal which might not be judged sufficient for the ferry companies to lift their ban or rejecting it and having to endure the situation for at least another 18

months. Other problems concerned Austria, which imposes a sixhour limit in its own soil and was waiting for parliamentary clearance to approve a deal

which would significantly dilute its controls.

animals, outside the EC Charlemagne Build-

ing. Ms. Bardot has been active both sides of the channel in highlighting the plight of crated

caives and other animals (AFP photo)

Ireland was also unhappy with the compromise and was seeking revision of the ferryclause which would count sea journey time as rest time excluded from the overall journey time.

On the other side of the debate, Spanish officials indicated that they could probably go along with the French proposal.

Italy and Portugal were holding out for further concessions. But, even if they were backed by Greece, they would not have enough votes to block a deal on the French proposal in the event that the northern states decided to accept it.

On Monday, former French film star Brigitte Bardot climbed into a container lorry to join protesters, dressed as sheep, denouncing cruelty to animals transported for slaughter.

The Burmese rained a bar-

don the base before dawn, said Thai Colonel Direk Yamngamreap. Karen rebels said in inter-

troops fired an undetermined type of gas into the base, wheih some said made the rebels unconscious and others said stopped their breathing and made their eyes tearful.

Trouble is bre

nuclear weapons. The major powers point to cases of nuclear smuggling following the collapse of the

The city of Grozny lies in almost total ruin following two

months of bombardment by Russian forces. A dozen

ESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Blur sweeps Brits with

four awards LONDON (AP)

band Blur won the Music Awards including:
The first band to bate prizes in the Pole in Awards, Blur also by

Prizes in the rop Mark Awards. Blur also was Album for Parklife to and Best to be Album to rarking to Madonna headed the harman

for the presentation star London's Alexandra by

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The awards, sponsore an academy of 500 Poster.

Estimated from the recording for his contribution in the style Council the Style Cou

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Scar-nominated Pup 7: 1100. bearing The Lion & Sour Weddings And Suneral. Forrest Games Philodelphia. Nelle Rice.

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VIENNA (AFP) - None

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the Style Council, was less best British solo artis, es solo artis, es Seal. Morrissey and E. Costello. Best British free solo artist was Edd Receivements. Solio artist was Eddi Reservation merly lead singer solid Artistic and Artistic artistic and best British networks Oasis. The filmsender was Oasis. The filmsender was oasis.

Paper: Why can't Russians find Dudayev?

MOSCOW (Agencies) -Lawmakers, journalists and even Harvard students have had little trouble contacting Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, but Russian sol-diers and sleuths cannot seem to find Russia's public enemy

The daily newspaper Izvestia Tuesday questioned the effectiveness and professionalism" of the Interior Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service, suggesting they don't really want to capture, Mr.

Russia declared the rebellious leader of the breakaway Republic of Chechenya a "wanted criminal" in January, but efforts to apprehend him have been little more than empty intimidations, the newspaper said.

(The Russian investigators) mysteriously begin to wink their eyes and flap their tongues, hinting that the days of the Chechen leader are numbered, he's surrounded, his movements are control-led," Izvestia said. Yet Mr. Dudayev continues to elude

Mr. Dudavev recently metwith Russian businessman Konstantin Borovi and gives frequent interviews to Rds-7 sian and foreign journalists in the Chehen capital, Grozny, and elsewhere. In one recent questions posed by students and professors from Harvard

MAE SOT, Thailand (AP)

One of the world's

longest-running insurgencies

abandoned its last major

stronghold Tuesday after in-

tensive shelling and gassing

by Burmese troops, rebel and

The Burmese rained a bar-

rage of artillery on the Karen

rebel base of Kawmoora

from midnight until 3 a.m.,

forcing 1,400 rebels to aban-

don the base before dawn,

said Thai Colonel Direk

Karen rebels said in inter-

views they did not have

enough weapons and

ammunition to defend the

base from the attack by

They said the Burmese

troops fired an undetermined

type of gas into the base,

which some said made the

rebels unconscious and

others said stopped their

breathing and made their eyes tearful.

A Bangkok-based support

group for the Burmese

opposition, Burma Issues,

said in a statement that the "poison shells," interspersed

with regular artillery, caused

disorientation and uncon-

sciousness. The group said an

unknown number of rebels

thousands of Burmese sol-

Thai sources said.

Yamngamreap.

traceable by his satellite phone, which he uses to make frequent calls to Moscow. Izvestia said.

"His location for some reason is only a problem for federal powers," the article

The newspaper said that the only thing Russia's month-long "official criminal search" had produced was the seizure of Mr. Dudayev's 70-year-old brother, Bekmurza. Russian officials said he was detained in Grozny, the Chechen capital, last week, and is now being held in Moscow.

"So what is the matter... with the effectiveness and professionalism of our power structures?" Izvestia asked. 'Either they don't want to find him, or they don't know how to do it.'

Mr. Dudavev has been a thorn in Russia's side since he declared his tiny mountain republic independent from Russia in 1991.

Meanwhile in Grozny, Russian troops who rule the ruins of the city by day say Chechen snipers and commando squads are using the city's sewer system to infiltrate the capital, making their lives miserable after dark.

"Life here really begins once night falls," said Sasha, a 21-year-old Russian Interior Ministry soldier guarding a checkpoint on what was once the main business street of the devastated Chechen

were killed in the shelling or

rendered unconscious and

unable to evacuate. Some of

them were reported to have

died from the chemical

The Karen said two of their

troops were killed and 12

injured in the overnight

attack. They had no casualty

figures for the Burmese sol-

At 8 a.m., the Burmese

soldiers occupied Kawmoora

and witnesses said they ex-

ecuted the injured and debili-

tated rebels left behind. Bur-

The group said the Bur-mese junta "is currently de-

monstrating a frightful con-

tempt for international hu-

man rights standards, inter-

national law regarding war

and armed conflict, and the

rights of the peoples."

A witness said camp Com-

mander Gen. Htaw Hla led

1,000 troops out of the camp

through the jungle deeper into Burma. But Col. Direk

said about 1,000 rebels took

sanctuary just across the bor-

der in Thailand while another

400 fled about 10 kilometres

(6 miles) north of the base to

regroup. There was no im-

mediate explanation for the

The Karen are among ab-

discrepancy.

ma Issues said.

poisoning.

Burmese rebels abandon last major base

"There's an absolute curfew at night. If we see someone moving or hear a noise like breaking glass underfoot somewhere we don't ask questions, we start shoot-

bid to surround the last rebel Chechen positions in the

snipers. We've begun filling

in some of the sewer system

with dirt because the

Chechens use it to move

Those few civilians who

survived the battle for Groz-

ny or returned afterwards are

often stopped and searched

by Russian troops at check-

points along main thorough-

"A Chechen man in a

green and yellow windbreak-

er, whom the Russians

deemed "suspicious", stood

facing the wail of a building

near Grozny's Minutka

Square, pale with worry and

and he was telling people in

the area they shouldn't put

up with intimidation from Russian troops," explained a soldier stanidng guard over

"We're sending him off for

more questioning. Someone else will decide what to do

Even during the day Groz-ny is rattled by sporadic

bursts of automatic weapons

fire and the frequent sound of

Russian demolition teams

are hard at work blowing up

cluding booby-trapped mines

in the cavernous basement of

behind by the building's de-

fenders when they slipped

to take advantage of a split in

the Karen rebel group.

Refusing offers to negoti-

ate an end to the bloodshed.

the junta on Jan. 26 seized

the Karen headquarters of

Manerplaw, 200 kilometres

(120 miles) north of Kaw-

moora, and forced about

15,000 people to seek refuge

The loss was a blow to the

Burmese opposition move-

ment, which also had made

Manerplaw its headquarters.

Students and opposition

politicians fled to the border

after the junta crushed a 1988

The junta put opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi

under house arest in 1989 and

refused to hand over power

after losing elections in 1990.

crush the Karen for refusing

to join a dozen other ethnic

minorities in signing ceasefire

agreements with Rangoon in

return for development

Australian Foreign Minis-

ter Gareth Evans warned

South East Asian countries

during a visit to Thailand

Monday not to give Burma

greater international recogni-

Burma's ethnic minorities.

tion until it stops attacking

The junta is seeking to

pro-democracy revolt.

in Thailand.

the presidential palace, left

unexploded ordnance - in-

"His papers aren't in order

wringing his hands.

the Chechen.

around at night."

ing."
Mr. Sasha pointed to burned-out, five-storey building less than 100 metres from his fortified post on Avturkhanov Street as an example. "Three nights ago a sniper

started shooting at us from the top floor and when we opened up with our heavy machinegun the whole building caught fire," he said. Chechen fighters held onto Grozny through nearly two

months of heavy Russian shelling and aerial bombardment, withdrawing earlier this month only after the centre of the capital had been reduced to rubble. Russian armoured person-

nel carriers now roar unopposed through the city's shattered streets on patrol, throwing up huge clouds of

Intimidating as the Russian presence seems, it has not prevented die-hard Chechens mounting hit and run opera-

"Some Chechens slip in during the day --- young men and women who have correct papers and pass through our checkpoints," said Andrei, another Interior Ministry sol-

"Once they're inside they create diversions or get a gun out of the city.

out a dozen ethnic minorities

that began fighting for their own sovereignty after Burma

gained independence from

Britain in 1948. With about

4,000 fighters, the group is

the largest and most impor-

tant of the four groups still

fighting for greater auton-

The Karen rebels, known

as the Karen National Union,

issued a statement in Bang-

kok saying they withdrew

from the base to return to

KNU from Kawmoora must

therefore be seen not as de-

feat but the next logical step

in the reconstruction of the

The base is just across the

border from Thailand and

about 375 kilometres (230

miles) northwest of Bangkok.

In Rangoon, military sources confirmed they had

forced the Karen out of the

base after a final two-week

long push. They said Karen

defectors, who had been aid-

ing Burmese soldiers in the

offensive, were clearing the mines surrounding the base

The Burmese junta in De-

cember broke the unilateral

ceasefire it declared in 1992

to occupy Kawmoora.

the rebel statement

The withdrawal of the

guerrilla warfare.

British cabinet approves N. Ireland peace proposals

Trial of alleged pub killers begins

Minister John Major's cabinet Tuesday formally approved proposals aimed at bringing lasting peace to Northern Ireland after 25 years of violence.

The so-called framework document, the latest step in a peace process launched by the Irish and British governments in December 1993, will be published jointly by Mr. Major and Irish Premier John Bruton in Belfast Wednes-

Protestant politicians crucial to the success of peace talks accused Mr. Major of preparing a sell-out to Dublin and ignoring the wishes of the Protestant majority in the province, who want its historical links with Britain maintained.

The document, drawn up by the London and Dublin governments and agreed six months after a truce by Catholic and Protestant guerrillas, sets out the framework for all-party talks on a political settlement.

"The governmen: agreed that the framework document and the proposals for an accountable government in Northern Ireland should now be published in a form recommended by the Northern Ireland Secretary (Sir Patricta Mayhew)," a statement from Mr. Major's office, after a special meeting of the

Irish officials said Mr. Major and Mr. Bruton will meet in Belfast Wednesday to the two countries are expected to drop or amend their respective claims to the sovereignty of the province.

Mr. Major is expected to appeal directly to the people of Northern Ireland not to reject the draft plan out of hand. He will urge them instead to study the document, 600,000 copies of which will be printed, in their own homes, officials said.

Mr. Major will point out that the proposals will go ahead only if approved by all Northern Ireland's political parties, by the London Parliament and by a referendum of the province's people.

But Unionist politicians

fear the document will pander to Republicans who seek the unification of Ireland and waged a bloody 25-year battie to oust Britain from the province. Setting out their own prop-

osals for the future of the province Tuesday, the Ulster inionist Party (UUP) said: "It would now appear that the government... hopes to use a referendum to deliver Northern Ireland's affairs into the hands of all-Ireland political institutions."

UUP leader James Molyneaux said the two governments' proposals were so detailed that they amounted to "a kind of United Nations

He urged instead a sixmonth period of intensive. but ad hoc, talks between the Northern Irish political pardesigned to solve specific problems and build mutual confidence.

After that, he said, a Northern Ireland Assembly, could be elected gradually to take over the day-to-day administration of the province, which is at present governed directly from Lon-

The document is believed to include proposals for a Northern Ireland Assembly, cross-border bodies and new arrangements between London and Dublin.

Mr. Molyneaux's colleague David Trimble accused the British government of failing to take Unionist views into account. "They have ignored our position," he told BBC Radio.

Ian Paisley, the fiery head of the Democratic Unionist Party, also adamantly rejected the initiative.

"I have seen what is in the document... and what I have seen.. is totally and absolutely repugnant to all the Unionist people of Northern Ire-land," he told British televi-

Meanwhile, the trial of four men alleged to have taken part in the murder of eight customers in a loyalist attack on a pub in Greysteel. Northern Ireland, began Monday in Belfast.

On Halloween in 1993, two armed and masked men entered the Rising Sun Pub in the village of Greysteel and opened fire for several minutes the court heard. A third man allegedly kept

guard outside the par with a sawed-off shot-gun and a fourth drove the getaway car. Seven people died instantly, and an eighth died six months later from his injury. Geoffrey Deeney, 23, Stephen Irwin, 21, Torrens

Knight, 25, and Brian

McNeill, 26 have all denied

the charge of murder. Mr. Knight has also denied taking part in the murdes of four men shot dead in a separate Ulster Freedom Fighters attack at Castlerock, County Londonderry, the previous March.

It is alleged Mr. Knight was the driver of a getaway van used in that shooting. The Ulster Freedom Fight-

ers claimed responsibility for the Grevsteel killings, which wre supposedly in retaliation for an Irish Republican Army bombing in the Protestant Shankill Road area.

In a separate development. Irish oppositison leader Bertie Ahern condemned a police swoop Monda; on Republican activists in Northern Ireland which provoked 2 street clash as British and Irish leaders prepared to spel! out hopes for lasting peace. Seven activists in Sinn

Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, were detained by Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers who also raided the party's headquarters in Londonderry. Northern Ireland's second

J.N. tries to negotiate aid into Bosnian enclave Mr. Abdic said in the letter.

SARAJEVO (R) - The United Nations sought on Tuesday to negotiate a path for aid convoys through battlefields to the encircled Bosnian Muslim enclave of Bihac, where it says thousands of civilians face

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi met rebel Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia in thier selfstyled capital Knin to plead with them to lift blockades on aid convoys to Bihac and end the "systematic harassment" of U.N. peacekeepers.

Aides suggested he would serve the right to threaten to use military force to push aid into Bihac, though the U.N. has consistently shied away from using its muscle in the past.

"That is one of the options that has been discussed and it is on the table," said U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko, noting that U.N. Commander General Bertrand De Lapresle was with Mr. Akashi in the meeting with Krajina Serb leader Milan Martic.

Krajina Serbs, working with their Bosnian Serb allies and rebel Muslims loyal to local warlord Fikret Abdic. have effectively blockaded the Bihac "safe area" in

northwest Bosnia, cutting aid to more than 160,000 people. U.N. officials and the Bosnian government, whose 5th Corps has been involved in

heavy fighting in Bihac after

an offensive in January, say hundreds of people and possibly thousands are close to starvation. "The bottom line is both the Abdic forces and the Krajina Serbs are using food as a weapon of war, trying to

spokesman Kris Janowski. Mr. Abdic, in a letter to the U.N. Security Council tion, accused the Bosnian government and U.N. of engineering a humanitarian crisis to get international sym-

pathy for the Bosnian Muslim

"Another "humanitarian offensive" is in sight to protect (Bosnian Muslim President) Alija Izetbegovic and his 5th Corps," Mr. Abdic said. He accused the 5th Corps of fighting in a demilitarised zone and of deliberately provoking hostili-

ties to block aid convoys. "In fear of another counter-offensive the same infrastructure of brainwashing innocent public opinion has been started."

Bihac is seen as a potential flashpoint that could reignite fighting across Bosnia, subdued under a Jan. 1 ceasefire intended to lay the ground for a negotiated peace under the terms proposed by a "contact group" of m._, ar powers.

That plan suffered a set-

back Monday, however, when Serbia made clear it could not embrace the plan deny food to the people of Bihac," said U.N. relief - requiring it to recognise Bosnia and Croatia - without the international community first lifting crippling sanctions imposed to penalise for supporting Bosnian

Serbs.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who has long argued that rump Yugoslavia must be encouraged in its peace efforts, spent a weekend discussing the plan with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. But Mr. Milosevic made it clear he could not consider recognition before sanctions were

lifted. "Belgrade is categorical --first lifting of sanctions, and then everything else," the official Tanjug News Agency said.

In Bihac itself, thousands

100

of civilians were reported by

the U.N. to be going hungry after months without aid. convoy of 10 trucks made it into the area last week but that was the first such shipment in more than nine

In Geneva, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Ron Redmond condemned what he called the "cynical exploitation of humanitarian aid as a weapon of war."

"While these people play their cynical game, innocent people are still starving in Bihac." Mr. Redmond said.

On Tuesday the U.N. said its latest aid convoy trying to get into the Bihac pocket was held up by Mr. Abdic's forces at Maljevac, near the Croatia-Bosnia border. The previous day Krajina Serb forces stopped the convoy only about 15 kilometres short of Bihac town.

The Bosnian government and the Kremiin formaliv established official inter-state relations Tuesday in the first sten towards full diplomatic ties, Interfax News Agency reported.

Diplomatic notes confirming relations were exchanged in Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told the agency.

Ecuador, Peru trade charges of truce violations

LIMA (AFP) - Ecuador and Peru once gain accused each other of breaking a week-old ceasefire in their border war, as an advance team of military observers was due to arrive in the disputed jungle area Tuesday. Peru's Joint Armed Forces Command said late Monday that Ecuadorean troops were being dropped by helicopter over the border zone, forcing Peruvian troops to defend

their positions at Cueva De Los Tayos, Base Sur and Tiwintza. Earlier Monday, Ecuador's military command charged that Peruvian forces were moving aggressively to try to consolidate those same positions, where the Equadoreans were being "permanently harassed by infiltrating Peru-

vian patrols.' The military bases are among several outposts that have been the object of conflicting claims by both countries since their border war broke out Jan. 26.

Adding to the confusion, Ecuadorean Defence Minister Jose Gallardo accused Peru Monday of "building false Twintzas" to prove the border post was in their hands.

Journalists who braved a rugged jungle trek to the disputed border area have been sending conflicting repots on who is in control of the military posts, which in most cases appear to consist of a few tents pitched in a clearing.

Ecuador and Peru signed a ceasefire agreement Friday calling for a demilitarised zone and for a team of international military observers to monitor the ceasefire in the disputed border area in the Andes' Condor range.

Meanwhile, an advance team of military observers was due to arrive in the border area Tuesday to monitor the border under terms of the ceasefire while a final diplomatic settlement is negoti-

and the United States, which guaranteed the 1942 Rio Protocol that set the current disputed frontier and helped mediate an end to the latest fighting, will provide the 20 diplomats and army troops set to serve as observers. Later, some 20 more observers are to be sent in. The guarantors will send in

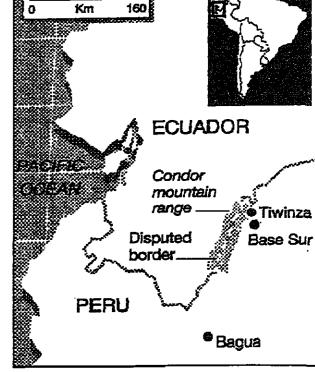
Argentina, Brazil, Chile

their advance team under Brazilian Brigadier General Ariel Pereira Da Fonseca to establish a demilitarised zone. The two countries also have agreed to exchange prisoners within 90 days. The observers will be flown

on a Brazilian military C-130 to the southern Ecuadorean city of Cuenca, from which they will travel to the town of Gualaquiza on the Ecuadorean side, and to the border 20ne itself.

It was not clear how long they would spend along the border before crossing to the town of Piura on Peru's side. But their mission could be extended past the 90-day time frame if necessary, under the ceasefire accord.

It also remains to be decided whether the international observers will help in the actual demarcation of the



78-kilometre (48-mile) unmarked border. If Ecuador and Peru agree to that, cartographers and geographers would be sent in for the effort.

Peruvian military sources said late Monday that two Ecuadorean helicopters had strafed Base Sur and Tiwintza over the weekend without causing injuries among the Peruvian defenders.

The Peruvian high command said that helicopters were also transporting troops and supplies into the border area, in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

Peru, the statement added. "has not carried out any acrial flights or military operations," in the border area.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Monday cancelled a trip to the border area to prove his claims that the Peruvian flag flies over the disputed military posts, a presidential spokesman said without providing reason for the cancellation

Trouble is brewing as world reviews nuclear treaty Soviet Union and the crises lieved to have nuclear LONDON (R) — The future

of a world treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, one of the major concerns of the post-cold war era, may now be in question because of disputes over and sentor government Sunday after sentor have significant to the sentor whether and how to extend the pact.

The non-proliferation treaty (NPT) came into force in 1970 for a duration of 25 years and is up for renewal at a U.N. conference in New

York which starts in April. Covering more than 170 countries, it effectively sanctions five official nuclear powers - the United States. Russia, China, France and Britain — while committing other signatories to renounce

nuclear weapons. The major powers point to cases of nuclear smuggling following the collapse of the

over Iraq and North Korea as examples of new dangers.

They want the treaty to be extended indefinitely and unconditionally, preserving the nuclear status quo. To achieve this, they need a simple majority of NPT signatories, currently more than 85

But diplomats say it is far from clear that the number is within their grasp.

Some other states, many of them in the developing world, say that the United States, Russia and others must do more to cut their arsenals and agree a formal ban on nuclear testing.

They also accuse the big powers of hypocrisy and of simply wanting to preserve an exclusive, secure club. Some countries widely beweapons, including Israel, India and Pakistan, have not signed the NPT. Arab states and Iran argue that the West has been prepared to overlook this in the case of Israel. its Middle East ally.

Egypt is now locked in a fierce dispute with Israel over the Jewish state's refusal to sign the NPT, adding further complications to the already fragile Middle East peace process.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, whose country currently chairs the 111nation Non-Aligned Movement, accused nuclear weapons states Tuesday of failing to live up to their treaty obligations.

"The NPT has not been fully implemented by nuclear countries, especially on disarmament and nuclear testing and on giving a guarantee that they will not attack the non-nuclear ones," he told reporters.

Non-Aligned countries, a grouping which covers mostly developing countries that declined to take sides during the cold war, had not yet decided whether to support indefinite extension of the treaty. Mr. Alatas said. As a result of such prob-

the number of votes they need to extend the treaty. Diplomats say those in favour currently number close to 70 countries, still wel! short of the target. They include members of major Western institutions like NATO and the union.

lems, diplomats say, it is not

yet clear whether the United

States and its allies will get

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Gimmick for a day

ISLAMIST AND leftist deputies stage-managed some sort of a parliamentary coup yesterday when they collaborated to prevent the last meeting of the Lower House of Parliament in the second ordinary session from convening. That they did to stop the House from discussing a draft legislation that would repeal three laws which prohibit the sale of land to Israelis and impose an economic boycott against the Jewish state.

While the opposition has thus succeeded in putting off debate of the bill until Parliament reconvenes either in May or June, as is widely expected, we wonder whether the whole move was in fact more than a public relations stunt. For it does not make much political sense, at least from a judicial point of view, to start a tug of war between the government and the coalition of parliamentary groups opposed to the peace treaty over this particular issue.

The government of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker had hoped that Parliament would have yesterday referred to its Judiciary Committee a 1973 law that prohibits and penalises the sale of real estate to Israelis, a 1958 law that slams total economic boycott against Israel and a 1953 law that forbids trade and commerce with the Jewish state. Some of these legislations carry the death penalty for violators. There are clearly other laws that are less obvious or direct, which can be construed as repugnant to the

The dispute over this issue is unnecessary because, from a strictly juridical sense, any treaty that is ratified by the government supercedes any other national legislation. This means that any piece of legislation, which is contrary to any such treaty, will not be upheld in a court of law. Since the Jordanian-Israeli treaty was approved by both chambers of Parliament and was accordingly ratified by the King, there can be no grounds or justification to oppose any legislative initiative to amend or repeal laws that run counter to the letter or spirit of its terms. As for the emotionally charged issue of land sale to Israelis, there is in place sufficient safeguards to prevent any panic. Foreigners, including Israelis, can purchase land only within municipal boundaries and even then only after a cabl . approval. If many Jordanians feel so strongly about not selling real estate to Israelis or any other group of foreigners, all they would have to do is exercise restraint and avoid becoming easy prey to manipulators and exploiters. True, national sentiment can be best promoted by public awareness of all probable dangers that may lie ahead. But people do not need the stick of the law to stop selling any part of

the homeland to any side, be it Israeli or otherwise. Just as there is no law and there can be no sustainable law that would force people to sell land to foreigners, the same goes for the areas of trade and commerce. The government, on the other hand, is legally bound to do all that is necessary to streamline all the country's laws so that they become harmonious with its old and new international obligations. Any other course would be both illegal and illogical.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in al Ra'i daily Tuesday called on Arab countries to support Egypt's bid to force Israel to abandon its nuclear programme, stressing that nuclear weapons in the region paused a serious threat to all Arabs. Hosni Ayesh said that Israel is the only country in the region which possesses nuclear weapons. For its part, the United States condones Israel's actions, helps it to mass nuclear weapons and continues to supply it with economic and military assistance, said the writer. At the same time, he said, we see the United States trying to force Egypt to renew its commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Freaty (NPT) and to deny the Arabs the right to arm themselves against potential threat from the Jewish state.

It is the duty of the Arab countries not to leave Egypt alone facing the American pressure and the Israeli arrogance, said the writer. Israel's nuclear monopoly in the area is dangerous because it means continued Israeli hegemony over the entire region and a direct threat to the Arab Nation's future, added the writer. The alternative to Israel's abandoning its nuclear programme, said the writer, is for the Arabs to possess their own nuclear might in order to protect themselves and deter Israel's plans in their

region.

COMMENTING on the deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian talks over the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement, a writer in Al Dustour said that the Palestinians should persevere and never retreat from their legitimate position. Saleh Qullab said that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has wisely chosen to remain steadfast in the self-rule areas rather than listen to calls from within the Palestinian people to withdraw and return to Tunis. Any withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is tantamount to another catastrophe, said the writer who added that return to Tunis by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) would mean an escape from responsibility. The writer said that the Palestinian leadership ought to insist that Israel redeploy its forces in the West Bank and that Palestinians be allowed to hold their planned elections as stipulated in the Oslo deal. Furthermore there should not be any suspension or freezing of the Israeli-Palestinian talks as this would benefit the Israelis and would mean running away from responsibility of meeting the challenge, added the writer. The writer said that the self-rule constituted the first step in the Palestinians drive to attain their national aspirations and, therefore, the Palestinians should cling hard to their rights and strive to fulfill their

national dream.

Washington Watch

One state's view of Arab concerns

THE ARAB-American Institute recently sponsored a poll in the northeastern state of New Hampshire. We were partners in the poll with Fox television news of New York City and the New York Post. The polister was the John Zogby Group of New York.

While the New York media focused its attention on the poll's questions on presidential politics, we commissioned our portion of the poll to develop ideas for the types of issues that Arab-Americans could and should raise in the apcoming 1996 elections. In American politics, this is known as "testing the waters." that is, looking for a general idea of where public attitudes are at the moment. New Hampshire is a key state since it is the site of the first presidential primary in the U.S., and in many ways a test of New Hampshire voters is a good indication of how voters think nationally.

The poll indicates that, if we are going to establish our case to support the Arab countries, we have serious work to do. But it also shows the base from which we will have to work; and in some cases that base is solid while in most cases it will require some work. Among the positive findings was a much lower than expected anti-Arab-American and anti-American Muslim sentiment. In fact, the attitudes towards these two groups were about the same as attitudes towards Asian-Americans and American-Jews which shows that an initial goal of our empowerment project, allowing us to function as other ethnic groups do. is being realised. This provides a solid basis for our political

Another positive finding in the poll was that Egypt once again outpaces Israel in popularity. Egypt's favourable rating was 42 per cent, while its unfavourable rating was 32 per cent. The figures for Israel were 44 per cent favourable and 40 per cent unfavourable. While Israel's favourable rating was slightly higher. Egypt's net rating (subtracting the unfavourable rating from the favourable rating) came out to be 10 per cent, markedly higher than Israel's four per

Other Arab countries did not fare as well, but most showed an improvement over polls done in previous years. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, for example, showed identical 39 per cent favourable ratings compared with identical 44 per cent unfavourable ratings. Jordan had a 31 per cent favourable rating with an unfavourable rating of 45 per

Lebanon has not yet recovered from the strong negatives engendered by its 17-year civil war, and the hostage-taking and the bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks which many Americans still associate with that country. Lebanon's favourable rating was a low 19 per cent and its unfavourable rating was a high 60 per cent. Surprisingly, the same is true of the Palestinians. The positive feelings the peace accords brought out were outweighed by decades of anti-Palestinian propaganda which still shapes many attitudes, leaving the Palestinians rating of only 19 per cent positive to 64 per cent negative.

By comparison, Germany rates a 74 per cent favourable and 15 per cent unfavourable, Mexico 47 per cent favourable and 40 per cent unfavourable, and Russia 45 per cent favourable and 40 per cent unfavourable.

More importantly, when New Hampshire voters were asked whether they support continued foreign aid to countries which receive such assistance, only 20 per cent support aid to Egypt and the same number support aid to the Palestinians while 32 per cent support continued aid to Israel. At the same time, 49 per cent support aid to Russia and 42 per cent support aid to Mexico.

The poll indicates that Egypt, in particular, has a standing that is strong enough to make it an issue on the must be done. For example, Egypt's position on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) — that it will not sign the treaty unless and until Israel also signs it - should be supported. If the demand that Israel sign the treaty is stated as an Egyptian position, it can garner strong public

It also appears that U.S. aid to Egypt is not popular precisely because Egypt has never actively stated its case for this aid. Instead, the aid is viewed as tied to the aid to Israel as a part of the Camp David accords (a position adopted in order to win congressional support). But as the silent partner in this arrangement. Egypt has never used its popularity to lay out the case for the aid, as shown by the fact that aid to Egypt is much less popular than the country as a whole. (Note that the ratio of support for Israeli aid to support for Israel as a whole is ¾, while the same ratio for Egypt is ½; there is a reservoir of positive feeling for Egypt

that has not yet been tapped on the foreign aid question). Lebanon and the Palestinians, it is clear, have serious work to do. Lebanon, and Lebanese-Americans in particular, have for too long rested on their past glories. They have failed to appreciate the tremendous damage done to Lebanon's reputation over the past two decades. A national campaign for Lebanon is clearly in order if public opinion is to consider Lebanon in the more positive light it

So, too, is the case with the Palestinians. Unfortunately, the PLO has never taken seriously the need to do meaningful public relations work in the U.S. Even after the Madrid peace conference when U.S. public opinion was ready for a change, the Palestinian leadership did not make a concerted effort to reshape U.S. opinion. The PLO office is still understaffed, underfunded and without a directive or a mandate to fully engage in a U.S. public relations

When I raise the importance of this issue to various Arab leaders, I am frequently asked three questions: Can it be done?

Is it important to do it? How could it be done?

Can it be done? Ask the Saudis. While Israel has a plus 4 rating and Saudi Arabia has a minus 5, given the fact that the poll has a margin of error of +/-4.5 per cent, the Saudi and Israeli ratings are virtually statistically equal. Imagine: Israel with the most powerful foreign lobby in Washington, with the support of a tremendously influential Jewish community and an extraordinarily successful public relations effort is now only viewed as slightly more favourable than Saudi Arabia, if at all. Why? Because, over the past five years, the Saudis have waged a public relations battle in the U.S. Despite the enormous cultural and religious differences between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, and despite the fact that most Americans historically tend to resent countries they expend lives and dollars to defend, Saudi Arabia's campaign has succeeded in turning U.S. opinion into a more favourable view of the kingdom. (A poll just three years ago showed Saudi Arabia with a 32 per cent favourable and 48 per cent unfavourable

Is it important? Since the U.S. Congress shapes so much of U.S. foreign policy and perceptions of what is popular and acceptable, it is critically important to have or win a favourable public opinion rating.

Each time the pro-Israel side shapes the public debate on

a question, they succeed to some degree in influencing public policy. Elements of this community are still, as I have noted for months, engaged in a strategy to discredit Saudi Arabia (as unstable, bankrupt and backward), or Egypt (as unnecessary, untrustworthy and unstable), or Islam (as the new post-cold war "enemy"). It seems that the Israelis have perceived a danger in two Arab countries being perceived as close allies of the U.S. and popular with the public. It is imperative that the Arab countries respond and take seriously the need to not only improve their public relations standing but also to use their standing to help shape the U.S. public debate on Middle East priorities.

How can it be done? The problem is simple and has been well-developed by the Israelis. First, cultivate friends elected officials, constituent groups (business leaders, interest groups, churches), especially those groups whose interests are served through their relationship with the Arab World. It is especially important that Arab leaders work with Arab-Americans — we are, in the end, their strongest supporters. And our strength and theirs are intimately related to one another.

Next, it is important to establish direct contact with the

U.S. people. I have long argued that we have a great deal to learn from the Israeli model. When an Israeli prime minister comes to the U.S., he first goes to major public events in cities like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles (speaking to thousands and appearing on television and radio), establishing his public message before he comes to Washington. By the time he arrives in Washington, U.S. leaders have seen the public support and heard the public

Arab leaders, on the other hand, rarely go anywhere other than New York (to appear at the United Nations - a venue Americans don't pay attention to), and then to Washington for quiet meetings with the president and congressional leaders. On occasion, they will address a think tank in Washington — but almost never will they venture out into the real America and give the American people a chance to see them, know them (possibly come to

like them) and see their message in their local media.

In an earlier poll we did, we found that President Hosni
Mubarak was far more popular in the U.S. than Israeli
Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Imagine if Mr. Mubarak were to take his message on nuclear non-proliferation or what must be done to make the peace process work, to major U.S. cities. Arab-Americans would gladly sponsor such events — it would be a plus for both Egypt and the local Arab-American communities (who would clearly gain in stature from such sponsorships. It would be a plus for the U.S. people who would hear, from a leader they respect, what should be done to build peace. And it would be a plus for the U.S., since it would provide badly needed balance

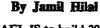
to our foreign policy debate.

The rest of the New Hampshire poll, as cited in the New York Post, also found that Kansas Senator Robert Dole held a commanding lead over all other Republican challengers in that state's Republican primary. Mr. Dole received 45 per cent support while his closest competitors, CNN commentator Pat Buchanan and Texas Senator Phil Gramm each received 10 per cent. The poll also showed that President Clinton would easily

defeat any and all potential Democratic challengers, if the primary were held today. Mr. Clinton received 66 per cent of the Democratic support, with his nearest possible competitor (Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey) receiving only

per cent.
If the general election were held today, the poll found that Mr. Clinton would defeat any of his potential Republican rivals except Mr. Dole. This held true for all the possible three-way races including former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff running as an independent: Mr. Clinton won all those possible races except the ones including Mr. Dole.

Real peace is not on Rabin's agenda



ISRAEL IS to build 30,000 new homes in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem in the coming three or four years. The disclosure, some 16 months after the signing of the Oslo accords between the PLO and Israel, of the Israeli plan, provides one more piece of evidence that peace with the Palestimans is not on the agenda of the present Israeli Labour coalition government. It is becoming clearer every day that the Rabin government finds even the Oslo agreement, with its built-in bias against an equitable peace that would determination to the Palestinians, a nuisance as it arrogantly pursues the imposition of its own settlement, using towards that end the favourable balance of power at the bilateral. regional and international levels. The fact that Israel, in

the Oslo accords, recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people has misled many Palestinians into believing that such recognition was an indirect way of acknowledging their national rights. It soon became more obvious, however, that the Israeli move was devoid of substantive significance, since it excluded accepting the right of Palestinians to an independent state, let alone the stipulated U.N. solution to the plight of Palestinian refugees (i.e. General Assembly Resolution 194, which specifies their right to return or compensation). Not content with the one-

sided nature of the Oslo agreement, which accorded Israel PLO recognition without any Israeli commitment to either withdraw from the 1967-occupied Palestinian territories or to accept the Palestinian right to self-determination, Israel has been busy since the signing of the declaration of principles in September 1993 trying to predetermine the outcome of the "final status negotiations" scheduled to start by 1996. It has done this by continuing the business of occupation and colonial settlement as if there were no peace

negotiations with the Arab

states, or any agreement with the PLO. In fact, Israel has selected to implement from the accords only those aspects which highlight its complete control of borders, all security matters in the Palestinian "selfrule" area and the rest of the occupied territories, and which grant it a veto on all matters of importance to Palestinian life. In this, Israel has benefited from the absence in the Oslo accords of an independent international mechanism for implementing the agreements between the two parties: The more so since, notwithstanding its selfstyled role as "honest broker" in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the U.S. has thrown its

As the more powerful, Israel is left in complete control of which aspects of the agreements with the Palestinian side it implements and when: hence the delay in transferring the specified functions to the Palestinian authority and in the various tactics being used to get round the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank (away from population centres) as a prerequisite for elections to the self-rule council. The

weight behind its strategic

redeployment of Israeli troops stipulated by the accords should have been completed by July 1994 so that general elections could take place; yet Israel is still procrastinating on this vital aspect of the agreement. The heightened settlement activity in the West Bank, the continued shooting of Palestinians (including policemen) by the Israeli occupying army and special units, the continued detention of over 5,000 Palestimians in Israeli jails, the use of collective punishment. the passing in the Knesset of a law banning PLO activities in Jerusalem, Israel's unilateral freeze of its economic agreement with the PLO, together with the worsening of economic con-ditions, have led to fastgrowing disillusionment and disappointment among

The hope that the Israeli-Palestinian agreements, despite their inherent political imbalances, would open the door to the establishment in the not-too-distant future of an independent Palestinian state has been dashed by the Rabin government's antagonism to the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. These rights and aspirations

were embodied in Palestine National Council (PNC) readopted in 1988, and were highlighted by the intifada. This hostility has been most obvious since the Oslo accords and its follow-up agreements in several areas: expansion of settlement activity; the building of roads (at a cost of \$500m) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip connecting these settlements directly to Israel; and the refusal under the guise of concern for the security of the settiers — to redeploy troops from the population centres of the West Bank as had been specified in unambignous terms, and doing everything to predetermine, prior to final status negotiations, the future of East Jerusalem, borders, and the limits and nature of Palestinian "sovereignty." In all these issues the

Israeli government behaves towards the Palestinians as no more than a national minority whose human rights do not exceed administrative and cultural autonomy. Hence the powers it is proposing for the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in the self-rule area hardly match those of a local authority in a Euro-

pean country. In reality, all the issues dealing with Palestinians' effective control over their lives in any meaningful way are post-poned to a final phase of the negotiations, and the lack of any mechanism for implementation have spurred the Israeli government, with tacit U.S. support, to regard the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip as disputed and not occupied territories, and to continue "creating facts" in the territories to decide their future. What emerges from Israeli actions and plans in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a Palestinian population contained, after the annexation of East Jerusalem with enlarged municipal boundaries (constituting nearly 22 per cent of the total area of the West Bank), in a number of pockets" or "reservations" which are surrounded and dominated by blocks of Israeli settlements, and supervised by a Palestinian council that lacks any legislative powers

Israeli government. The Oslo agreement has fractured the unity of the Palestinian people between those residing in the occu-

and is subject to the press-

ures and demands of the

pied territories, and those in exile (mostly as refugees). Now Israel is trying to fragment those Palestinians living in the territories into "reserves" allotted to them by Israel on land left after it has completed its annexation for its colonising settlers and their security. It is this forced Israeli settlement, rather than the concern to find a political settlement entailing an end to the occupation, that mocks the peace and demands an immediate review of Palestinian political strategy. The issue of settlement activity and Jerusalem must occupy a central place in this strategy.
The PLO and the Pales-

tine National Authority have a duty and an opportunity now to mobilise support from all quarters on a platform that gives absolute priority to the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and that would suspend negotiations with Israel until this happens. The PLO and the PNA should insist on tackling the question of Arab Jerusalem now and not leave it to the final status phase of the negotiations, since Israel is going ahead in changing this historic and unique city. which Palestinians wish to see restored as the capital of their future state. The agenda of the

Palestinian-Israeli negotiations therefore needs restating so that it centres on the issues of dismantling Israeli settlements, Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory occupied in June: 1967, and the establishment of a Palestinian state, and on the means of addressing the acknowledged rights of Palestinian refugees as and integral part of the Palestinian people. If these issues are not addressed, then whatever emerges will not be peace but an imposed settlement that deliberately ignores the rights and aspirations of the historical ly wronged party in the

Jamil Hilal is a Palestinian writer living in Britain, ille is a member of the Palesting National Council. The include is reprinted from Middle East International.

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Feature:

By James P. Grant This article was written shortly before Mr. Grant's death on Jan. 28

NEW YORK — Iliness has New to resign as exforced me to lossess as ex-emive director of the Un-emived Nations Children's ited Nations It has fund after 15 years. It has been a privilege to serve a cause as noble as that of the world's children, who are our collective future. From our consecute future. From my hospital bed, I would like to share some personal

concerns.
As the United States redinks and reforms its sodal and foreign aid policies. we must ensure that childen - American children and the poorest children in the world's poorest counmes - are not caught in the political cross fire. Bipartisanship for children has worked well in the past; it can work now. To ensure that their well-

being is not inadvertently sacrificed to partisan or ideological interests, Americans must reaffirm that children constitute a special case requiring consistent hipartisan action and a first call on society's resources. Four years ago, the World Summit for Children set ambitious goals: a major reduction in child deaths: a halving of child malnutrition: immunisation levels of 90 per cent: complete eradication of polio; an end to iodine deficiency, which causes most cases of preventable mental retardation: a drastic reduction in the number of children who go blind; an effective primary education for at least 80 per cent of girls as well as boys: clean water and safe sanitation for all communities: and universal ratification of the Convention on

the Rights of the Child. Some of these goals were to be achieved by 1995, others by 2000. Most industrial nations have already achieved these targets. But in impoverished inner cities of wealthy and developing countries alike, reaching them is an urgent priority.

Achieving the goals will mean that some 2.5 million ewer children will die in 1996 than in 1990. Tens of insidious sabotage wrough

By William MacLean

kuwait's government and opposition are keeping one eye firmly on Parliamentary elections next year as they square off for a high-stakes tussle over the economy.

Both have political hopes iding on the outcome of a dispute that could affect the economy for years and decide parliament's political complexion until the end of the century, analysts say. The argument is about two intertwined issues. The

first is how to settle \$20 billion in long-standing private sector bad debt owed by a few thousand wealthy ndividuals and companies. The government has sparked parliamentary fury by suggesting debtors be allowed softer terms of settlement to end a problem that has enfeebled the banking system for a de-

cade. The other issue is a government call for Kuwaitis to start paying fees for heavily subsidised public services to

PLO wants wid

waste of time" Israel's "Jenin first" proposal under which the Palestinians would take over administration of the West Bank town without israel withdrawing its troops. Ahead of the meeting Mr.

Arafat insisted on a rapid . Israeli puliback "Israeli leaders are shillyshallying and making several pretexts including security," the Palestinian leader charged in an interview with

the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat. Mr. Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis where he failed to Convince the PLO's Political Department chief Farouk Kaddoumi to take part in the Executive Committee meet-

Mahmoud Abbas, a former helned to negotiator who helped to draw up the Oslo autonomy

Drop the mean mood and keep minding the children

By James P. Grant This article was written shortly before Mr. Grant's

death on Jan. 28

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NEW YORK — Illness has forced me to resign as executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund after 15 years. It has been a privilege to serve a cause as noble as that of the world's children, who are our collective future. From my hospital bed, I would like to share some personal

As the United States rethinks and reforms its social and foreign aid policies, we must ensure that children — American children and the poorest children in the world's poorest countries — are not caught in the political cross fire. Bipartisanship for children has worked well in the past; it can work now.

To ensure that their wellbeing is not inadvertently sacrificed to partisan or ideological interests, Americans must reaffirm that children constitute a special case requiring consistent bipartisan action and a first call on society's resources. Four years ago, the World Summit for Children set ambitious goals: a major reduction in child deaths; a halving of child malnutrition; immunisation levels of 90 per cent; complete eradication of polio; an end to iodine deficiency, which causes most cases of preventable mental retardation; a drastic reduction in the number of children who go blind; an effective primary education for at least 80 per cent of girls as well as boys; clean water and safe sanitation for all communities; and universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Some of these goals were to be achieved by 1995, others by 2000. Most industrial nations have already achieved these targets. But in impoverished inner cities of wealthy and developing countries alike, reaching them is an

urgent priority. Achieving the goals will mean that some 2.5 million fewer children will die in 1996 than in 1990. Tens of insidious sabotage wrough

on their development by malnutrition. At least 750,000 fewer children each year will be disabled. blinded, crippled or mentally retarded.

Achievement of the 1995 targets will pave the way towards meeting the broader goals set for 2000, proving that it is possible to eradicate some of poverty's worst manifestation in the lives of the young.

There is something selfish, something excluding, something cruel in the temper of recent times that deeply concerns me. It has led to an unravel-

ing or weakening of the social fabric, of nations, communities and families, in many countries. What is particularly worrisome about this mean-spiritedness is that it is gaining ground precisely when, for the first time in history, we have the means to satisfy the basic needs of each and every human being.
It would be a tragic mis-

take to succumb to pessimism just when so much progress is being made. In the 1995 "State of the World's Children" report, UNICEF has good news from the developing world. More than 100 of the developing nations — with more than 90 per cent of the developing world's children are making significant progress towards the goals set four years ago. These achievements have not made the nightly news, but they have changed the lives of millions of families in some of the world's poorest communities where people have been empowered to help themselves.

These achievements are a suitable reply to those who say that goals are only set and never met, that there is only disaster and failure to report from the developing world, or that the United Nations family of organisations is not effective in helping to make the world a better place.

The task now for rich countries and poor is to get behind this momentum for change, to push towards the achievement of the great goals that have been set for the year 2000, and to overcome the worst aspects of More than a half-century

ago, thanks to the Industrial Revolution, Arnold Toynbec wrote: "Our age is the first since the dawn of history that has dared dream it practical to make the benefits of civilisation available to all." That daring dream is even more practical today.

If, through a failure of nerve, an impulse of selfishness, a confusion of priorities, a loss of selfconfidence, we deny that dream and walk into the 21st century looking backward, humankind will pay for its shortsightedness in

The United States has provided enormous leadership to U.N. development efforts at many critical junctures — from John Kennedy's launching of the First Development Decade to U.S. backing of smallpox eradication — and I am sure that U.S. leadership will continue to play a vital role in the future.

By continuing to invest in American children and strengthening families, and by ensuring that foreign assistance makes a difference in the lives of the world's poorest children, the United States, as the world's sole superpower. would once more set the global standard and give a major boost to human development and economic growth at home and abroad.

Surveys in the industrialised countries show continuing support for aid and development — if that aid and development are focused on the poorest, and help people to help themselves. Politicians in both U.S. parties need to make it unthinkable for a country like American to turn its back on children and the

Over the years I have seen how governments, opposing political parties, even armed adversaries, as well as the business sector. nongovernmental organisations and local communities, can work together for human progress - first and foremost for children. Let us all face forward towards the children, our collective



A Bosnian Muslim old woman cries in agony over the suffering the war has caused her (AFP photo)

Old people wait for the end of the war, or their lives

By Samir Krilic

The Associated Press SARAJEVO — Crammed onto one floor of a former school, dozens of elderly Bosnians silently await the end of the war, or their lives, whichever comes

The makeshift old people's home was set up in August 1993 in a shellshattered school building several hundred yards from the front line. It shelters 64 sick and old people with no one to turn to.

One doctor, five nurses, four orderlies and a social worker try to cope with the needs of both their live-in charges and 150 other elderly people, many living

Conditions are miserable. Many of the elderly are too sick or feeble to make it to the toilet, so they relieve themselves on the floor or in bed. Natural gas for heat is scarce, so rooms are often icy. For most, break in a day of staring at

The Red Cross contributes some canned food once a month. U.N. peacekeepers from France provide occasional favours - food, medicine, gasoline for the home's single car, and once old clothes donated by family members. Local charities have been able to help out with aid only three times since the home started.

"What they get is not nearly enough," said Nina Winquist, a Red Cross rep-

Dobrila Mulina, a 70year-old retired history professor, spends her days in the smelly, narrow corri-

Sitting in her wheelchair at a table packed with booksm Ms. Mulina, affectionately known to her companions as "Seka" (sister), reads daily in an effort to escape the harsh reality of her life. "I live in

little world of literature," she said, absently stroking her gray hair. "The apathy and the boredom of others around me makes me miserable and desperate."

Her resilience is all the more remarkable given her suffering - chronic diabetes forced doctors to recently amputate her right leg because increasingly poor circulation led to the threat of gangrene.

A daily shot of insulin each morning helps her relax and begin her day's reading.

She prefers the dark corridor to the room she shares with nine other women, most of them so sick they rarely leave their beds. Despite a broken window, stale air is heavy in the overcrowded

Without a single television or a radio for entertainment the day ends with

the onset of dusk. "I take a sleeping pill so as not to think about the

past, the present, and the

daughter and grandchildren, who live in Liverpoor, England, will come to take her away from the misery.

If she lives that long. Old age or sickness have killed 41 people at the home during the 18 months she has been there. "Death is at home here."

she said. "We are never sure what will come first our end or the end of the Others too are gloomy,

the misery of daily existence compounded by the suffering they were exposed to before landing here. Asia Smajlovic, 81, takes solace in religion. Her only

son was killed at the beginning of the war in her hometown of Visegrad, 120 kilometres east of Sarajevo. She fled Bosnian Serbs soon afterward, leaving her house, cattle and life behind. She moved in after finding temporary shelter in

Bent nearly double by age, she manages to walk five times a day downstairs for water for her ritual wash-up before prayers. Low water pressure means taps and toilet bowls on the second floor are dry.

Abid Jahic, 69, fled with his family from Rogatica, 55 kilometres east of Sarajevo, when Serbs captured it at the beginning of the war

The Jahics left for Zepa, an eastern enclave held by the Muslim-dominated government. Mr. Jahic was seriously wounded by a shell and was evacuated by the United Nations to Zenica for medical treatment. while his wife and two daughters stayed behind.

Unable to return to the besieged enclave, Mr. Jahic came to Sarajevo where he was left to fend for himself.

"If the officials here in the home hadn't allowed me to stay I would have died," Mr. Jahic said. "All I want is to see my family one more time before I

Kuwait embarks on high-stakes economic tussle

By William MacLean Reuter

KUWAIT - Kuwait's government and opposition are keeping one eye firmly on parliamentary elections next year as they square off for a high-stakes tussle over

the economy. Both have political hopes riding on the outcome of a dispute that could affect the economy for years and decide parliament's political complexion until the end of the century, analysts say.

The argument is about two intertwined issues. The first is how to settle \$20 billion in long-standing private sector bad debt owed by a few thousand wealthy individuals and companies.

The government has sparked parliamentary fury by suggesting debtors be allowed softer terms of settlement to end a problem that has enfeebled the banking system for a de-

The other issue is a government call for Kuwaitis to start paying fees for heavily subsidised public services to curb a budget deficit that is slowly eating away the

state's reserves. Diplomats say the dispute pits the considerable influence of large merchant families against the expectations of ordinary Kuwaitis used to one of the world's most lavish welfare

states. Income tax is unknown, gasoline is cheaper than bottled water and civil servants retire on full pension after 20 years' work or less - expensive measures at a

society - pay their obliga-

wealthy.

year's budget deficit. Big merchants argue set-

time of low oil prices. Lawmakers say Kuwaitis will be willing to start paying fees or taxes only when the debtors — regarded by many people as among the wealthiest in

The lawmakers, already angry over the loss through alleged graft and mismanagement of more than \$5 billion of public money invested abroad in recent years, strongly oppose giv-ing even more lenient debt settlement terms to the

Deputy Nasser Al Sanea

said softer terms would cost the treasury 1.6 billion dinars (\$5.3 billion). He said the original settlement

terms set in 1993 and described by bankers as aiready rather generous, would earn it a tidy 2.4 of fees." billion (\$8 billion) --- 60 per cent larger than this fiscal

tlement under the original terms would trigger a property and stock price crash. In October 1996 Kuwait will hold polls for the next four-year parliamentary term and both progovernment and opposition MPs are expected to court

voters with promises of handouts. While the prime minister by tradition is always the crown prince and a member of the ruling Sabah family, elections determine the political complexion of the legislature and thereby to some degree also the emi-

rate's political stability. "We do not want the difficult debt law to be changed. We don't want any new taxes or the government to lower spending," Islamist opposition MP Ahmad Baqer told Reuters.

"But if the debtors do pay up (under the 1993 terms) then we will consider how to settle the question Newspapers have said the

government would like the debtors to be allowed to pay only an average 35 per cent of their debts, among other changes. Under 1993 terms they must pay 45 per

The debtors must pay their debts to the state, which bought the debts from banks three years ago in a debt rescue. The debt stems from a 1982 stock crash and Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

Sanea said the dispute bore out the conclusion of a secret World Bank report on the economy. He'reported it as concluding: "Kuwait's economy suffers from besitant decisionmaking and is designed to serve a group of businessmen with short-term objectives without giving concern to the public interest."

Newspapers have said Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, an advocate of changing the debt plan, recently met key opposition MPs to persuade them to support the debt reform.

But parliament has also been active. Its legislative committee last week proposed bills that would freeze fees at their January 1, 1995, levels and bar the imposition of new fees without parliamentary passage of a law.

The bills have yet to be debated by the full assem-

"Mere talk about amendment of the debt law weakens the economic structure which depends on the sanctity and stability of laws and rules," said Al Shall Economic Consultancy, which advocates imposition of fees and opposes changing debt terms.

"The probable political and social consequences (of the government's decisions) will influence the stability of future governments," it

Daily shootings claim 1,000 lives in Karachi

By Zahid Hussain The Associated Press

KARACHI - The gunmen of Karachi usually strike at

Sometimes it's a sniper who fires from a rooftop at pedestrians. Often it's a man on a motorcycle who blasts away on a busy street and then speeds off into the darkness. Lately, the attackers have grown so bold as to enter mosques and fire on men kneeling in prayer.

Political religious and ethnic feuds have all been factors in the almost daily shootings that have left more than 1,000 people dead over the past year in Karachi, a massive port city of at least 10 million people.

The local government is too weak and poorly run to pick up garbage or hand out parking tickets, much less catch the well-armed gunmen. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has pledged to dean up the chaos, but there is a strong sense that Karachi. Pakistan's business capital. has spun out of control.

"People have never felt so unsafe and helpless," said Sarfraz Ahmad, a resident of the Karachi Central District, the area hardest hit by the violence. "We never know when anyone will become the target of a terrorist attack." Karachi's problems offer

an extreme example of woes that plague the country as a whole: Political instability, drug trafficking, plentiful guns and persistent violence. Ms. Bhutto has been only

partially successful in reversing the country's image with such acts as last week's arrest and extradition to the United States of Ramzi Yousef, an Iraqi charged with organising the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing in New York.

In fact, the kind of turbulence that continues in many parts of Pakistan enables terrorists to operate more free-

ly, despite the government's commitment to tracking them

Much of the Karachi fighting pits the security forces against supporters of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), which has used violence, strikes and other confrontational tactics to paralyse the city

The MQM represents the Mohajirs, or Muslims who migrated to Pakistan from India when the Asian subcontinent was divided into two nations in 1947.

The Mohajirs account for a majority of Karachi's population but say Ms. Bhutto and previous leaders have shortchanged them when it comes to jobs, education and political clout. Periodic talks between the government and the MQM have failed to settle the dispute.

The MQM wants local elections, which they would almost certainly win. Ms. Bhutto, however, does not want to risk losing political control of the country's largest city, and she has relied on municipal leaders that she appointed.

To further complicate the matter, the MQM has split into two factions that often fight one another when they aren't battling the police. And in the past year, militant Sunni and Shiite Muslim groups have started attacking one another. Criminal gangs also run rampant.

In attacks Monday evening and early Tuesday morning. 19 people were killed. Most of the deaths appeared to be linked to the political vio-

Among the deaths were five people gunned down just outside the office of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement. Another five bodies were found in a car in the Orangi District in western Karachi. All the victims in the car were believed to be supporters of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

The latest killings have come during the Muslim holy

the city normally slows down and men spend hours talking

with friends. But many streets now empwhen the sun goes down and attendance at some mosques has dropped off due to the violence

In one of the worst attacks. gunmen with automatic rifles fired on men attending evening prayers on Feb. 5 at the Babul Islam Mosque, leaving nine dead and more than a dozen wounded. "Seven bullets passed over

my head. I saw several people in pools of blood," said Sohail Ahmad, 59, "Police arrived when it was all over. The people were very angry and peited the police with stones. There is widespread frustration with both the government and the police. The

government has been unable to provide basic services such as water and electricity. which frequently break The police rarely catch killers and seem unable to protect even themselves. More

than 100 police have been killed in the city since the beginning of 1994. Every third man in Karachi is armed, 'said Abdul Sattar Sheikh, senior

superintendent of police for the Karachi Central District. "We are not equipped to counter organised terrorism." he conceded.

The army patrolled the streets for more than two years, but Ms. Bhutto withdrew the force at the end of November and said police could maintain order. However, the violence immediately worsened and more than 200 people have been killed in the past two

months. The unrest has scared off potential foreign investors at a time when they are pouring vast sums of money into Asia's fast growing cities.

"We are heading toward a disaster," said Yaqub Karim. a leading industrialist.

PLO wants wider world role in peace process

(Continued from page 1) 'waste of time" Israel's "Jenin first" proposal under which the Palestinians would take over administration of the West Bank town without Israel withdrawing its troops. Ahead of the meeting Mr. Arafat insisted on a rapid

Israeli puliback refugets as a record of the later records if these issues and reseed and records are impossible to the record of t "Israeli leaders are shillyshallying and making several pretexts including security." the Palestinian leader charged in an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al Havat.

but an impose but this deliberate the lights are the bistories Mr. Arafat arrived in Cairo from Tunis where he failed to convince the PLO's Political Department chief Farouk Kaddoumi to take part in the Executive Committee meet-

Falsaidh Falsai Mahmoud Abbas, a former negotiator who helped to draw up the Oslo autonomy

accords, also boycotted the meeting as did the Palestinian People's Party, which said it was "likely to further widen differences" among PLO fac-

One stay-away member told AFP: "The Executive Committee is a decisionmaking authority and not a tool in Arafat's hands."

Meanwhile the number of Palestinian labourers allowed into Israel rose to about 5,500 on Tuesday, the third day of a gradual reopening of the territories a month after a suicide bombing, the army

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to ease from Sunday the restrictions which were imposed on Jan. 22 when 21 Israelis were blown

Only 900 workers were allowed in on Sunday and 3,000 on Monday.

The army is issuing 15,000 permits to married Palestinians aged over 30 this week - 5,000 for the West Bank and 10,000 for Gaza.

Before the closure 50,000 Palestinians had permits to work in Israel and an estimated -10,000-20,000 more were employed illegally. And before work permits were introduced in March 1993, some 120,000 Palestinians had jobs in Israel.

The government has imported 59,000 foreign labourers and plans to bring in another 11,000 to replace the Palestinians who are seen as a security risk.

Israeli security forces on Tuesday arrested a Muslim fundamentalist leader in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources reported. Sheikh Jamil Hamami, 43.

was detained in the village of Bir Nabala. He has already been arrested several times in the past and held without trial under emergency laws. Sheikh Hamami is close to the Islamic Resistance Move-

ment Hamas, and head of an

Islamic sciences committee

which runs several schools in the West Bank, the sources said. Israeli police firing rubber bullets shot and wounded a Palestinian vendor near Jerusalem's Old City on Tuesday, sparking clashes with stone-

ses said. They said police were checking the identity card of a West Bank Palestinian near the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City when a policeman shot him with a

throwing protesters, witnes-

no joint exercises (Continued from page I) and some of the countries

Arabs say

taking part would send naval officers rather than ships. Kuwait's Defence Minister Ahmad Al Hamud Al Sabah also said the report was

"completely baseless,"

Despite the Arab denials, Israel stood by its Sunday announcement that it had agreed at a December meeting of one of several multilateral committees set up as part of the Middle East peace process to hold the exercise off the Tunisian coast.

"We can confirm that this will happen in the future," one detence ministry official rubber bullet at point-blank | told Reuters on Monday.

Saudi budget deficit slashed 3.3 per cent of GDP study

Saudi Arabia has slashed its projected 1995 budget deficit o around 3.3 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) pressing ahead with reforms to offset losses from low crude prices, a Saudi ank study said Tuesday.

But the cut in spending, which followed unprecedented advice by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cost it in terms of economic growth, according to the study by Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank (NCB), the biggest

bank in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Azzam said the 1995 deficit was more than halved to 15 billion riyals (\$4 billion) from 40 billion riyals (\$10.6 billion) in 1994.

This came after expenditure was trimmed by 6.2 per cent to 150 billion riyals (\$40 billion) from 160 billion rivals (\$42.6 billion).

"It is projected that the deficit in 1995 accounted for 3.3 per cent compared with 8.8 per cent in 1994," he said in the study, published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Khaleej.

Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the world's proven oil re-

tran, faced with a falling cur-

rency and steep consumer

ne rises, said Monday it

intensify the fight

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ure from the IMF to lower its without any impact on credits deficit after it soared to serious levels after a drop in crude prices and large cash contributions to the 1991

The deficit began to appear in the mid-1980s because of the lower oil prices and production and jumped to a re-cord \$33.6 billion in 1991 due in payments for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces. It accounted for as high as 28.5 per cent of the 1991 GDP but eased in the

following years.
The deficit has forced the kingdom to borrow from the local and foreign markets and withdraw from its overseas reserves, believed to have declined to less than half their level in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Azzam expected Saudi Arabia to earn less from oil exports this year due to lower prices but said the fall would be offset by a hike in prices of petroleum products, internal flights and telephone, water and electricity rates.

He projected earnings from petroleum products to reach eight billion rivals (\$2.13 billion), raising total oil sales to around \$24.8 billion. The remaining revenue would come from non-oil sources, he added.

"This deficit could be fiserves, has been under press-nanced through local sources

Illegal sidewalk money

dealers, driven underground

by a crackdown in October.

have reappeared. Rates on

the flourishing black market

are regularly quoted by news-

paper and even the official IRNA news agency.

are dealing unperturbed in

clear view of police," the daily Jomhuri Eslami said

laste week, complaining ab-

Despite the tough talk ab-

out crackdowns against pro-

fiteers, prices have gone up

across the board, newspaper

"Today there is not one

item that has no gone up in

price since the beginning of

(the price-control campaign

in October)." Salam daily

annual rate of inflation at

out police laxness.

said Monday.

The black market dealers

Iran vows crackdown on

black market profiteers

in U.S. to the private sector as there are no pinas to borrow from abroad," he said. "Previous borrowing has not affected investment bank liquidity as credits extended by banks to the government have not exceeded

25 per cent of their assets." Mr. Azzam said the reduction in the 1995 budget, the second in two years," mainly affected defence, subsidies, debt repayment and projects.

Defence expenditure. which received the lion's share of the budget, was cut by 7.5 per cent to 49.5 billion riyals (\$13.2 billion) while allocations for subsidies and debt repayments were slashed by 29.9 per cent to 35.2 billion riyals (\$9.38 billion).

The remaining sectors got around 5.2 billion riyals (\$1.38 billion), a decline of nearly 11.8 per cent.

Mr. Azzam forecast a decline in the 1995 GDP to 446.4 billion riyals (\$1.19 billion from 453.2 billion riyals (\$120.8 billion).

"The decline came after several years of growth by a surge in the private sector, which is relying less on government spending as the country is pressing on with restructuring the economy," he said.

20. Newspaper reports place that figures closer to 50 per

Recent press reports say

Union leader Alireza Mah-

iub told Etellaat newspaper

that the hike was needed

because "the rising rates of

dollar and gold in Iran are

having a direct impact on

The increase should go into

effect from the start of the

Iranian new year on March

Iranian workers is about

cent

has reported.

cial figures show the U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) exceed \$400 billion. They account for nearly

and bank deposits. Personal deposits are put at more than \$100 billion.

ing on the low inter-Arab investment, which is estimated by the Arab Corporation for Guaranteeing Invest-mnet at around \$12.2 billion, a fraction of their overseas assets.

Arab action to repatriate the huge overseas Arab funds, which are exploited by non-Arab capitals. They could be used to develop regional economies and serve domestic development," he said. "Those funds face the risk of being nationalised or frozen. which has become possible at any time when there is a rift en us and the co where we have deposits. This has happend more than

200,000 riyals (less than \$50) her fort about a third of about 35 per cent in the Iranian year ending on March a month. once.

prices.

21. he said.

The average

 $\mathbb{ANEU}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{AFP}) \; \leftarrow \;$ trade deficit in the man months of the current manne ear has jumped an maing 79.7 per cent with are abance of any major . . age in the short term. the six months review translately to mid-January) the crede deficit stood at 20.4

billion ruppees (\$408 million) up 79.7 per cent Exports to overseas markets dropped 21.1 per cent to

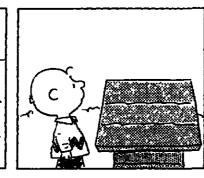
\$171.8 million. Although exports to India jumped 36 per cent to \$32.2 million, this was offset by the increase in imports from the same country - \$190.4 million worth against \$156 million in the first six months of

the previous year. With India the imbalance has been fuelled by the current Indo-Nepal Trade Transit Treaties signed by the former Nepali Congress (N.C.) government in 1992 which say that only Nepalese

There are no restrictions on India goods into Nepal, and economists said that unless this one-sided situation changed Nepalese industries would have little chance of

al trade deficit jumps an alarming

: 5 GOING TO BE COLD TONIGHT SO MAYBE YOU'D BETTER COME AND SLEEP INSIDE.





Andy Capp









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I KNOW,





German central bank says moderate raises condition for smooth growth

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Germany should be able to continue recording smooth growth, the Bundesbank says, while stressing the need for moderate salary increases to ensure this and reduce unemployment.

In its monthly report for February, the central bank Arab states lost nearly \$12 says there remain risk factors billion in their investments in such as an increase in income the United States last year tax from Jas. 1 (which could because of a decline in stocks weigh on domestic consumpand the dollar, a United Arab tion), a strongly appreciating mark or an increase in longterm interest rates last year.

Emirates (UAE) official said. Said Al Jarwan, director of the Sharjah chamber of com-But there are "nevertheless good chances of conmerce and industry, said Arab investors had around \$90 billion in U.S. equities tinued growth without tensions, above all if economic, and stocks, or nearly 13.4 per budgetary and wage policies cent of their total investment underpin the process of in the United States. growth and job creation by

"Economic experts estimate the Arab investment losses in the U.S. financial markets at around \$12 billion by the end of 1994 due to a decline in stocks, bonds and the dollar rate," he said Tuesday in Al Khaleej newspaper.

Report:

lost \$12b

ABU DHABI (AFP)

Arabs

The decline was caused by German firms. Washington's decision to raise interest rates on short term deposits six times to 5.5 per cent from 3.5 per cent, he

Mr. Jarwan gave no figures for the total Arab investment in the United States but offibased assets of Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the

half the estimated overseas Arab funds of more than \$800 billion, invested mostly in the West in equities, real estate

car prices have risen more than 30 per cent and house-Mr. Jarwan was commenthold appliances up to 100 per cent in the past few months. Meanwhile, Iran's state labour union plans to demand a 50 per cent wage raise for workers to cope with economic hardship, a newspaper

"There should be a joint

. antaining 50 per cent indigenous raw materials will

be allowed into India. expanding.

South East Asian economies requires a long-term strategy, the bank said, observing that costs remain high in Germany and that the upward movement of the mark was an additional chal-

The Bundesbank said foreign demand in the last quarter of 1994 remained an important factor of recovery, thanks both to a better economic climate in trading partner countries and the increased competitiveness of

Moderate wage settlements in 1993 and 1994, rationalisation measures and the development of products adapted to the markets "are now paying off," the report

But a changing world economy and the rise of the

lenge for businesses.
The central bank said the jobs shake-out had bottomed out, with seasonallycorrected figures showing a fall of 56,000 between the end of May 1994 and the end of January, to 2.53 million out of work in west Ger-

But despite the recovery, unemployment remained the dominant problem, characterised as in other European countries more by structural factors than a lack of demand, the report said.

"Moderate salary increases and an improved economic framework can belp increase employment chances in a favourable economic situation," the bank said.

According to Bundesbank figures published last Thursday, gross domestic product (GDP) increased one per cent during the last quarter of 1994 and by 3.5 per cent compared to the same period in 1993.

The bank said that the German recovery was following a "classic pattern": First an increase in foreign demand, followed later by an increase in investment demand by firms thanks to their increased profits.

Private consumption remains weak (it fell by one per cent during the last quarter of . 1994), the bank said, and one could not expect a big rise for the time being due to the income tax increase for 1995, although it should take off later due to a fall in unemployment.

The Bundesbank also said in its monthly report for February that the German public deficit amounted to 100 billion marks in 1994, 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

In 1994, Germany thus respected the Maastricht treaty convergence criterion for the third phase of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) regarding the public deficit, allowing a maximum three per cent of GDP.

The public debt was around 50 per cent of GDP, also below the 60 per cent ratio required by Maastricht. According to the bank, both criteria are expected to be met by Germany in 1995.

Within the European Union, Germany is in a comparatively favourable position. according to the report, but the Bundesbank said it "must go further" than the Maas-tricht criteria in reducing its public deficit, stressing that spending cuts are "an abso-

iute priority." The public deficit includes the federal budget, the regional states, municipalities and the social security system (the latter was in profit for -1994, the bank said earlier).

The federal, regional and municipal deficit totalled 105 billion marks, down by 30 : billion marks compared to 1993, the Bundesbank said. It attributed the fall in particular to lower spending on em-ployment support, which was less than expected because of a surprisingly strong recov-

ery.
The federal deficit was 50.5 billion marks in 1994, against 69.5 billion in 1993. After payment to the government of the Bundesbank's profit, if comes to only 39.5 billion marks.

The regional states of west Germany are expected to show a 1994 deficit of 27 billion marks, against 25.5 million in 1993, while for the eastern states the deficit was hardly changed at 16 billion -marks.

The western municipalities showed a deficit of seven billion marks against nine billion in 1993, while those in the east showed a slightly increased deficit from five billion marks the previous year.

U.S., Mexico agree on rescue package

WASHINGTON (AP) -After five intense days of negotiations, the United States and Mexico have agreed on terms for a \$20 billion rescue package for the Mexican economy, officials said Tuesday.

The agreement met U.S. demands that Mexico pledge to make fundamental reforms of its economy -- reforms that are likely to cause economic pain in the form of rising interest rates and possibly a recession.

However, U.S. officials said without the reforms, investor confidence cannot be restored and the value of the Mexican peso will continue to 'olummet.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Mexican Finance Minister Guillermo were scheduled to sign the agreement in treasury's ornate cash room later Tuesday and officials said exact details of the terms would be spelled out then.

However, in advance of the ceremony, an administration official, speaking on con-dition of anonymity, said, "all of our concerns were taken care of."

Presidential Press Secretary Mike McCurry said. "we are satisfied that the govern-ment of Mexico and the Un-

ited States have made excellent progress in the discussions over the weekend." The announcement that an

THE BETTER HALF,

GLASBERGEN "

agreement had been reached came one day after Mexico's central bank announced that it was tightening credit in a move that pushed short-term interest rates in the country up to almost 50 per cent. Officials of the Bank of Mexico were quoted as

saying that their action was taken as a result of the negotiations with the United States. One key U.S. demand has

been for Mexican authorities to tighten monetary policy as a way of supporting the peso by pushing interest rates The atmouncement that

the Mexican central bank was tightening credit conditions helped to bolster the peso, which closed Monday at 5.53 to the dollar, up from 5.725 on Friday. Higher interest rates generally make a currency stronger by providing

their investments. The United States and Mexican officials have been making progress toward finalising the economic support package," Mr. McCurry said Monday, the fifth day of the discussions.

President Clinton last month offered Mexico the \$20 billion in U.S. loans after a bigger \$40 billion loan guarantee package ran into stiff congressional opposi-

The \$20 billion in loans are

By Glasbergen

being obtained through a treasury fund normally used to support the dollar. While congressional critics have charged Mr. Clinton with overstepping his authority to tap into this fund, an effort to challenge the president was defeated by the full House

In addition to tighter monetary policy, Mr. Rubin 🗻 has told congressional com-mittees he will demand irouclad guarantees that the United States will receive oil revenues from Mexico if Mexico defaults.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 1995 By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact an influential person who can give you support for the fine project that you have in mind. Take time for some fun later this afternoon and add to your happiness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your ideas are working like magic

early in the day so be more aggressive than in the past. Relax at home tonight and you'll seel better tomorrow. GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you carry through with promises to others and gain good will. Your mate becomes more affectionate as the day passes.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take time to learn what is expected of you by associates and try to please them for possible advancement in your career.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at work ahead of you and gain fine benefits by being cooperative with others. Good organisational work is the key to success now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A time to concentrate on getting ahead in your line of endeavour. Know what will please your mate the most, whatever the cost.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good day to confer with family members and maintain harmony in the home. Sidestep one who is a moother and you will not offend anyone's feelings. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Good day after the information you need for a personal project. This day is also fine for micating with others.

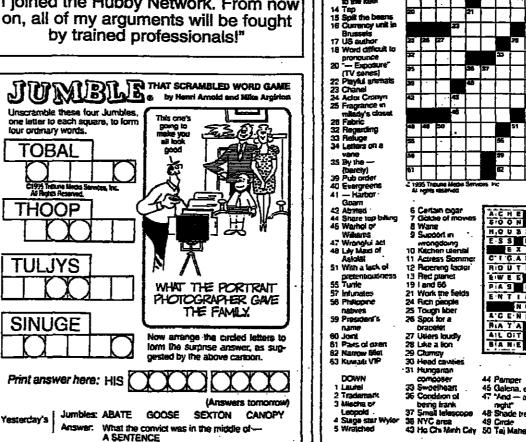
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are thinking in a most practical vein and can easily handle a difficult problem today. Express your happiness over your relationship with a loved CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The morning may be

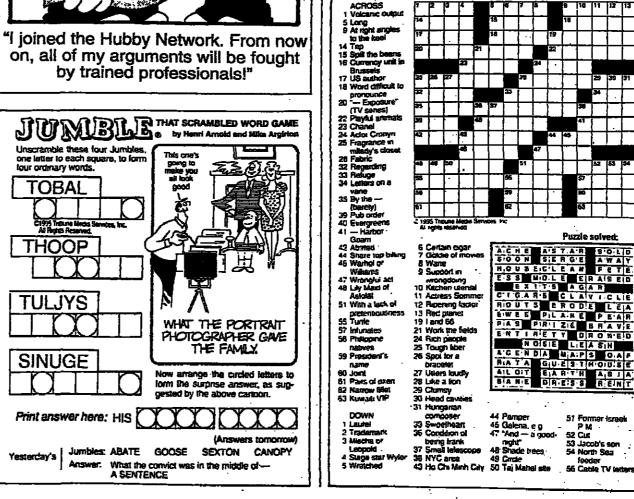
depressing, but later you can go after your personal goals and gain them. Be careful of your money or else there won't be any if you AQUARIOS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget the frivolous for now and get on practical matters that could bring you income for the

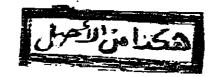
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good friend who is wise can tell you how to solve certain problems this morning so listen carefully. Relax and be contented in the evening.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon







oderate rowth public deficit, stressing spending cuts are an extra priority. The public deficit into the federal budget be and the social securing the latter was in properties. The federal budget be and the social securing the latter was in properties. The federal regime to the federal regime to the spending the said early the said early the federal regime.

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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

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of the Bundesbank's portion only 30.5 kg. ☆☆ The Palestinian Company for Development and Investment (PCDI) has received preliminary approval from the Palestinian National The regional states of a Authority (PNA) to begin Germany are expension a long of second a long deficit of the procedures for founding a Palestinian stock exchange. marks, againg a marks, againg a marks, againg a marks, againg a marks, against a marks, against a marks against against a marks against agains At present, both sides are cooperating in laying down maniform states the definition of the changed at 16 by. the necessary legislation especially with regard to registering brokers and other managerial, legal and tech-The western municipal states of the states o nical aspects.

PCDI Chairman Kamal Al position marks against men son in 1993, while those showed a shipar. Shaer said the company was in contact with the management of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and the concerned authorities in Jordan to list Palestinian stock on the AFM and the Jordanian stock on the Palestinian stock exchange, when it is established. The PCDI beaddition to ugh: lieves that both the Jordanian and the Palestinian markets are one market, he said.

Dr. Shaer emphasised the importance of having a secondary market in Palestine. It is a basic condition to mobilise capital and provide opportunities to put the Palestinian economy in motion, he said. A secondary market would help in establishing public shareholding companies and in providing an opportunity to trade their rangs Damo Righter Fourage 、

shares, he said. Dr. Shaer said the Palestinian Company for Industrial Investment (PCII), which was set up by the holding company PCDI, would have its operations cover all of the West Bank and Gaza. The PCII's first project will be planning and designing in-dustrial cities on lands to be assigned to it by the PNA to encourage setting up industries in areas having the

The PCII general assembly is expected to hold a meeting

necessary facilities.

PCDI had recently established two companies: Al Quds Company for Tourism and Investment is headed by Khalil Al Talhouni and is based in Jerusalem; and the other is the Palestine Company for Real Estate Investment headed by Nabil Al Sarraf and based in Gaza.

According to Dr. Shaer, the PCDI activities are twopronged. First, the activities that the private sector undertakes and, second, the services that are usually carried out by the public sector in some countries such as electric power and communications among others.

Dr. Shaer revealed that during discussions with the PNA, the company made a comprehensive offer to build a 160-megawatt electric power station in Gaza and was given the green light to pre-pare the technical, economic and financial studies needed

for the project.

As such, PCDI is now in the process of setting up a Palestinian public shareholding company to build, manage and operate the electric power project in which the Jordan Electric Power Co. and the International Finance Corporation have agreed to

invest in its equity.

The PCDI chairman expects to submit to the PNA a detailed offer before the end of April 1995 at an estimated cost of \$140 million.

Dr. Shaer said PCDI was preparing offers to build the necessary facilities for the Gaza port such as a free zone, a industrial zone, warehouses and storage areas, management premises and maintenance workshops.

In the telecommunications field, he said, PCDI will set up a shareholding company to build, operate and develop a telecommunications network in Palestine in partnership with an international firm to be selected at a later

Dr. Shaer stressed that the PCDI "works on the basis that the ties between the Fordanian and Palestinian economies will be accompanied by a gradual programme and practical steps that would lead to an open market with neighbouring Arab coun-

Asian crude oil prices highest in the world

SINGAPORE (Agencies) — Asian crude oil prices are the highest in the world, pulling up prices for some Middle East and African oil with them and squeezing Far East refining profits.

Malaysian Tapis crude oil, highly prized in booming Asia for its rich yield of transportation fuel, is being offered as high as \$19.20 per barrel for April loading, its strongest level since early August last year, oil traders said Tuesday.

The price of Indonesian Minas crude is being offered even higher at \$19.30 a barrel as Japan and China vie for scarce supplies. Minas is mainly burned by electric utilities but can also be refined. In comparison, April

North Sea Brent crude is fetching \$17.00 and U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude about \$18.60. "Definitely Asian crude oil

has become the costliest in the world and it is beginning to have a major impact on world oil markets," a trader

Cairo Amman Bank

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UAE Dirham

Greek Drachma*

Cypriot Pound

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3994/04

One ounce of gold \$378.90/379.40

Egyptian Pound

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Singapore said. "Refiners are losing money running Asian barrels and are looking to cheaper Mideast and African grades as replacements."

Refiners in Asia would lost 25 to 50 cents per barrel if they bought Tapis crude at current prices, sources estimated.

Crude from New Guinea, Australia and Indonesia used to be in ample supply if Tapis grew tight, sometimes at big liscounts. But less Asian crude is

available now. Malaysia is running a new refinery flat out and production from Australia's Gippsland field is down by about 20 per cent in the last 18 months. Moreover, weather-related

problems at Indonesia's Belida and Australia's Griffin oilfields this month have resuited in the loss of another 1.6 million barrels, traders

Indonesia has also diverted Heavy Minas and Duri crude to a new refinery. Japanese

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and

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Dutch guilders

Belgian francs

French francs

Japanese yen

Danish crowns

Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

Italian lire

Swiss francs

Date: 21/2/1995

another hot dry summer, have been vying with China for the remaining supplies, driving Minas premiums to a dollar over the official price.

Many Asian refiners have already turned to cheaper sources from outside the region to fill the supply gap. Record amounts of African

oil, conservatively estimated at 35 million barrels, have sold into Asia in 1995, mainly for Korea but also to Japan, China, Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia. U.S. and European refin-

ers have frequently found

themselves in tough bidding wars with Asian refiners, pushing African oil prices higher. Angola's Cabinda crude, for example, is being discussed at dated Brent minus 50 cents compared with dated Brent minus one dollar at times last year. Some refiners are also

> turning to low sulphur Mideast crudes like Yemen's Masila as alternative.

Taking advantage of strong

ARAS SASK PIC JORGAN NATIONAL BANK JORGAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW SANK OF JORGAN

INCUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BASK

ANDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT

BORDAN FRENCY INSURANCE

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demand and rising prices. Yemen this week mised its second quarter term Masila price to dated Brent minus 25 cents from minus 65 cents in the first quarter.

Buyers hope the souecze will end soon as North Asian refiners begin seasonal maintenance shutdowns.

"This rally has got to end soon," one refiner said. He noted that Tapis prices typically begin falling around March as refiners close down units for turnarounds and kerosene demand dress as the northern hemisphere's winter ends.

A recent Reuter survey. however, found Japanese shutdowns will not peak until June and July, South Korean refinery shutdowns will run from May until July.

"Refinery turnarounds will be key to the price autlook for light low sulphur crude in the next few weeks," one Asian trader said. "Chinese demand will be more important for heavy sweet (Indone-

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ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUSEDAY

Meanwhile, Singapore hopes to capture many of the Asian investors in Brent Crude futures when the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (SIMEX) begins trading the oil contract in June, officials said Tuesday.

The officials said that SIMEX will trade Brent Crude futures under a tie-up with the International Petroleum Exchange of London Ltd. (IPE) with trading hours extended through the Asian business day to encourage more dealing from this part of the world.

SIMEX officials said that they initially hope to attract 8.8 per cent of current IPE trade originating from the Asia Pacific.

"There are close to 5,000 contracts a day from this part of the world done through brokers (in London)," Ling Thim Poh, a SIMEN director and managing director of B.P. Singapore Pte.

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Jordan, France negotiating terms of \$100 million debt-equity swap

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan and France are negotiating the discount rate for about \$100 million in Jordan's debts that the Paris government has agreed to convert into investments in the Kingdom, official sources said Tuesday.

The officials, who did not want to be identified, said the negotiations were launched after the two governments signed an agreement late last year under which about \$200 million of Jordan's debts to France were also resche-

The debt rescheduling accord was part of an agree-ment that Jordan reached with the Paris Club of creditor governments in June. The broad accord covered \$1.215 billion of Jordan's debts.

France holds about \$1 billion of Jordan's total foreign debts, which outgoing finance minister Sami Gam-moh put at \$5.5 billion in

early January.

About one-third of Jordan's dues to France is outstanding lease payments on Royal Jordanian aircraft and does not qualify for any special treatment. Of the rest, about \$350 million have been rescheduled, including the amount covered in last year's

Under the accord on debt conversion, investors would be able to buy capital to be invested in Jordan in Jordanian dinars against payment of foreign currency outside

World coffee prices rise

LONDON (R) - London coffee prices surged to a 1995 high above \$3,000 a tonne Tuesday for a gain of six per cent in just a week on fears about dwindling stocks and Latin American supply. The worries drew trade and speculative buyers into the market. "We have gone through a cyclical decline and now we are looking forward to a period when supply will be reduced," said Charles Baker, an analyst at brokerage Rudolf Wolff. London Robusta coffeee futures ran up as high as \$3,004 a tonne Tuesday.

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the country at a discounted

According to the officials, Jordanian debt are now available in the market with about 33 per cent discount and the negotiations with the Central Bank of Jordan aimed at setting at a slightly higher discount for debt-equity

As rule, when a country brings down its foreign indebredness, the discount available on such debts in the secondary market also goes down parallel to the rise in the country's international credit

In the early 90s, the discount available on Jordanian debts was as high as 50 and 55 per cent.

Jordan brought down its foreign debts from \$8.3 billion in 1989 to around \$6 billion in 1995 through debt huyhacks and write-offs as well as cancellation of signed but non-disbursed loans after implementing a tough economic restructuring programme in coordination with the In-

ternational Monetary Fund. Nearly half of the Jordanian debts has been rescheduled for periods extending to more than 25 years.

The U.S., British and several European governments wrote off part of the Kingdom's obligations tollowing the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Oct. 26.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said early this week that the Clinton administration had promised to bring forward the write-off of \$488 million of Jordan's debts to fiscal 1994-95 instead of 1995-90.

That would debts total American write off of Jordan's debts in fiscal 1995-94 and 1994-95 to \$708 million. Jordan owes the U.S. an addition \$300 million but that amount is not eligible for write-off under American

Other major creditors of Jordan include Japan and Germany.

Jordan is lobbying its creditors for further debt relief to bring down its deb to around \$3 billion — around 75 per cent of its gross domestic product — a level seen essential for the Kingdom to regain pre-1988 international creditworthiness.

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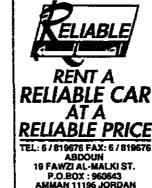
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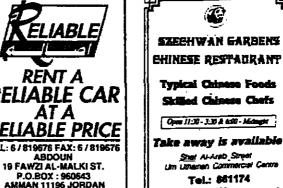
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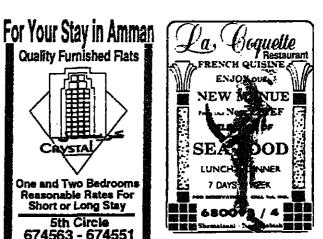




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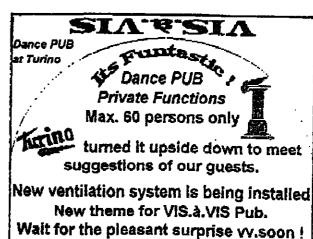


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IOC vows to help fight drugs

Lu Bin and Yang Aihua —

tested positive for drugs at

the Asian Games in Japan

and were banned from com-

At the conference, Samar-

anch signed an agreement

with the U.N. International

Drug Control Programme in which they pledged to join

together to prevent drug

abuse in young people

through the promotion of a healthy life style.

The 31 delegations present

at the conference are ex-

ment containing more speci-

fic suggestions on how to

combat the problem on Tues-

the Olympic movement is to

contribute to preventive

education, to draw the vouth

away from these mortal dan-

gers and towards practicing

Five athletes representing

their countries read a tes-

timonial vowing to pass on

the positive values they

learned from practicing

sports to youngsters around

sport for their well-being,

The main objective for

pected to adopt a final docu-

petition for two years.

Nigerian-born Hakeem Olajuwon and Jamaican naive Patrick Ewing sparked the trend. Shaquille O'Neal. David Robinson and Zaire's Dikembe Mutombo followed while Alonzo Mourning and Datchman Rik Smits put dus in title contention. NBA officials. hearing complaints that centres were

becoming too dominant. shortened the three-point ine and tightened defensive rules to encourage play away from the basket. But pregame scoring has remained inchanged and centres remain the top scorers. "There are just a lot of

talented players out there in the middle," Robinson said. "It goes in cycles. This is our The retirements of Michael

Jordan and Magic Johnson ended an era for flashy guards and the big men have inherited the throne. None has been more impressive than Orlando's O'Neal. a dunking dynamo whose 29.5 points a game leads the NBA.

"He is having a sensational season," Robinson said. "Most people can't see the little ways in which his game has stepped up from last sea-

The Magic are title contenders with O'Neal being supported by the rebounding of forward Horace Grant and the outside play of guard Aniernee Hardaway. "You've got to say Shaq is

the MVP," Hardaway said. "He's the leading scorer. We would not be the same team without him.

Many have compared Shaq and "Penny" to the NBA's greatest 1980s tandem, Magic Johnson and centre Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. But the ex-Laker star and newest Hall of Fame inductee thinks Shaq has a way to go yet.

ec and i had aiready won national college titles before we even made it to the NBA. These guys haven't," Abdul-Jabbar said. "They have plenty of time. They will make their own statement."

Olajuwon already has. He was voted last season's Most Valuable Player after leading Houston to the NBA crown.

Unive Japan and U.

JACA, Spain (AFP)

Japan and the United States joined the gold rush at the World Winter University Games but Provided Winter University thing Games but Russia's skiers

managed to tighten their grip on the medals table. Japan's ski jumpers to the dominated the 90m hill event out o at Astun, with Yukitaka Asian, with running the gold med-al, Hiroki Vesugi the bronze and Noritaka Kasama taking

fifth place. But hours later, the Americans went one better with Michael Weiss and Damo-

Allen completing a one-two finish for the States in the men's figure skating at Sabi-

The pair ousted China's Zhang Min, who had been leading after Sunday night's

short programme but who had to settle for bronze. The Japanese ski jumpers, who allowed Slovenia's Franci Petek to take the silver. showed the skills which have seen their nordic combined athletes take charge of the

World Cup in recent years.
With a points total of 240,
Fukita, who won the iarge hill event at the Zakopane Games two years ago, was comfortably clear of Petek (235.5), with Vesugi polling

Weiss, who had been lying third behind Allen and Zhang after the short prog-ramme. gave a highly polished performance after both of his rivals had bungled landings in the free section.

It was good and clean and to do, said Weiss.

"I knew I was one of the best skating here and I feel that I can compete with the less in the world. I hope I can go on to do as well if not

res

The athletes were: Soccer

players Roberto Baggio of Ita-

ly, Kazuyoshi Miura of

Japan, Abel Balbo of Argen-

tina, track and field athlete Venuste Niyongabo of

Burundi and Australian rug-by player Michael Lynagh

"The elite Olympic sports."

men and woman is a model to

follow for young people. In-

of the Olympic spirit such as

competitiveness, self-

confidence, cohabitation,

security, solidarity," said

Feliciano Mayoral, secretar

general of the Association of

the National Olympic Com-

But Giorgio Giacomelli, executive of the U.N. Drug-

Control Programme, said there would be no additional

restrictions on athletes but

urged them to make a "moral

commitment" to avoid drugs.

ramme also will encourage the formation of sports class

in low-income areas and

promote the use of sport facilities.

Giacomelli said the prog

Ex-Soviet republics cooperate to maintain elite athletic standards

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russians lost more than Sergey Bubka and a handful of other stars when the Soviet Union collapsed four years ago.

The flight of talent to newly independent republics - the Ukraine in polevaulter Bubka's case — was the first shock for Boskomsport, the central committee that built the Soviet Union into a post-war sports super power.

A second blow was lack of funds as sport slipped down the priority list in a country gripped by an economic crisis.

A more long-term effect is only now being fully appreciated. The break-up of the Soviet Union cut Russia off from training centres spread across the former empire—the cradles of Moscow's sporting greatness.

These training centres are essential if Russia is to continue to produce elite athletes, so Moscow is desperate-

ly keen to get them back.

Last month, the plan started to fall into place when nine of the 15 former Soviet republics, at the behest of Moscow,

met to form an association to foster sporting co-operation. The National Olympic Committees of Azerbaidzhan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan and Turkmenia pledged their support and Latvia and Belorussia sent observers.
Vitaly Smirnov, the 60-year-old president of the Russian

Olympic Committee, was appointed head of the new organisation and has made no secret of his ambitions. The main goal, he said, was to maintain the positions of the former Soviet Union in sport. The common use of sports facilities was high on the

vice-president of the Armenian Olympic Committee, Razmik Stepanian, had to say. Generations of elite Soviet athletes have passed through Tzakhkadzor - a high-altitude training centre in Armenia.

agenda, with the Russian especially interested in what the

whose facilities are unmatched and sorely missed by Russian competitors today.

LONDON (AFP) - George

Graham was sensationally

sacked by Arsenal Tuesday

after the club was informed

of the results of the Premier

League inquiry into illegal

payments involving the trans-

Highbury reign, te most suc-

cessful in the London club's

history, was announced by

chairman Peter Hill-Wood,

who said that the manager

had not acted "in the best

The disgraced Graham is

said to have received an illicit

payment of £285,000 follow-

ing the £1.1 million transfer

of Danish star John Jensen,

The announcement ended

a glittering eight-and-a-half year tenure at Highbury, dur-

ing which Graham has

brought the club six trophies

including victory in the Euro-

pean Cup Winners Cup last

A terse statement by the

club read: "Arsenal Football

Club have now been in-

formed by the FA Premier

League Inquiry of the results

LONDON (Agencies) — Two-time Wimbledon cham-

pion Pete Sampras will make

his sixth consecutive appear-

ance at the Queen's Club

from Brondby in 1992.

interests of the club."

The end of Graham's

fer of players.

"Tzakhkadzor is the best facility we ever had in the old Soviet Union," said Anatoly Kolesov, the head of the

Kiwis edge

SAN DIEGO (AFP) -

Team New Zealand beat

oneAustralia by only 26

seconds in a fight for first

place at the Ameria's Cup

Monday while the struggling

French saw their backup boat

New Zealand's triumph

lose its keel and capsize.

put the "Black Magic" -

unbeaten in 16 races except

on a protest — atop the

standings in the third round of the challenger trials.

French even on a day when

they trounced Spain by 6

minutes 56 seconds to break a

five-race losing streak and

Chris Dickson's TAG

Hear boat held onto second

place with an effortless 4:07

win over struggling Sydney 95

whle Young America streng-

thened its lead in the Citizen

Cup defender trials by dis-

posing of the America3

The two New Zealand

boats are scheduled to race

The strength among the challengers lies in the South

Pacific. Except for oneAus-

tralia's opening loss to Nip-

pon in the first round and a

broken spreader bar that cost

it a second-round race against

Nippon, none of the top

three has lost to anybody

else. The new Australian

boat had not lost until Mon-

Der Vortrag von

Dr. Mahmoud Alawi

for first place Tuesday.

avoid last place.

women by 2:24.

But bad luck dogged the

Aussies

Russian delegation for the 1996 Atlanta Games. "The entire country (Soviet Union) was responsible for building this centre.

Tzakhkadzor, built in 1968, is equipped for the training of athletes in all Olympic sports, all year around.

When the Soviet empire collapsed in December 1991, Russian athletes lost the opportunity to train there. Armenia's war with neighbouring Azerbaidzhan has affected Tzakhkadzor, whose facilities have suffered dam-

There is hope, though. Stepanian has promised that the training centre will be re-opened to the Russians once more and Kolesov said that he will visit the centre in May.

"At the moment, we are forced to train in Krasnodar (Russia) or travel to Bulgaria. We end up spending a lot more money than we would at Tzakhkadzor. The Armenians have offered us to train there at the price of 15 U.S. dollars per person per day," said Kolesov.
Russian rowers have lost their training centre in

Mengechur, Azerbaidzhan, and athletes have been deprived of their base at Sukhumi in Abkhazia. "We came to the conclusion that by helping each other.

we can become a much bigger force at the Olympics." said Vladimir Vasin, the 1972 Olympic gold medallist in diving and now the first vice president of the Russian Olympic

"It is impossible to survive without integrating our efforts, our scientific base, our knowledge and experience in training world-class athletes. I am convinced that in the future, others such as Ukraine. Belorussia and the Baltic states will join our association," he added.

Irina Privalova, the Russian sprint star, still trains on a dilapidated Moscow university track but continues her yearly altitude training sessions in April in the Caucasus. But even that venue in Kislovodsk is under threat, only 70 kilometres away from Grozny, the Chechen capital and centre of a war zone.

that the decision has been

based mainly on the findings

of the Premier League

yet to be announced.

second division.

Luton.

Liverpool.

both finals

"bung" inquiry, which are

Graham became Arsenal

manager in May 1986 after a

successful spell at Millwall

whom he guided into the

In his first season Arsenal

won the League Cup, beating

Liverpool in the final at

Wembley, but then suffered a

surprising defeat in the fol-

lowing year's final against

Arsenal to their first league

title for 18 years thanks to

dramatic injury-time decider by Michael Thomas in the

final match of the season at

In 1991 Arsenal, who lost

only one league match all

season, became champions

again, despite being deducted

two points after an on-pitch

brawl at Manchester United.

Two years later Graham

presided over an historic FA

Cup and League Cup double-

triumph, as Sheffield

Wednesday are beaten in

game. The grass at the vener-

able London venue is faster than that at Wimbledon, and

the last two finals - Michael

Stich over Ferreira in 1993

and Martin over Sampras last

In 1989 Graham guided

Arsenal manager sacked

of their investigations into

alleged irregularities concer-

niong certain transfers and

the Board have concluded

that Mr. Graham did not act

in the best interests of the

terminated Mr. Graham's

contract as manager.

The board have therefore

"The chairman said that it

was sad that Mr. Graham's

distinguished career with

Arsenal FC should have to

end in this way and he paid

tribute to Mr. Graham for

the success that he had

brought to the club over the

Graham's dismissal comes

past eight-and-a-half years."

at a crucial time in the club's

disappointing season with

Arsenal currently lying in the mid-table of the Premiership

but only four points clear of

In nine days the club will

continue their defence of the

European Cup Winners Cup

in the first leg of their

quarter-final tie against

Cup disappointments, the

statement clearly indicates

Sampras coming back to Queen's

Despite League and FA

the relegation zone.

French side Auxerre.

sports psychology, bioche-mistry, diet and the monitoring of competitors' results. Athletes, coaches and sporting scientists will also be exchanged, Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) director of sport Craig McLatchey said.

Australia

to buy

sports

secrets

SYDNEY (AFP) — Austra-

lia aim to boost their gold

medal prospects for the 2000

Sydney Olympics by paying the Russians a \$1 million for

A committee of sports

administrators has been set

up to negotiate final details for the hire of Russian help

for key sports in which Au-

starlia remains weak: athletics, boxing, judo, shooting,

wrestling and weighlifting.

Russia will be paid a down-

payment of \$330,000 and the

reminder in two or three in-

stallments. The deal was

finalised during a recent visit

here by Russia's Atlanta

Olympic team chief Anatoly Kolosev, the former Soviet

Russia will provide details

of training, coaching, blomechanical research,

vice-minister for sport.

their sporting secrets.

Russian

"Training loads and biomechanical methodology is something we do not understand as well as the Russians," said McLatchey. "We will be buying 70 years of

Russian success. Australia, which dominated last year's Commonwealth Games in Canada has already seen the benefits of top coaches form the former Soviet bloc and China and would dearly love to match major sporting nations such as the United States, Russia and Germany in the Olym-

Australia won 27 medals. including seven golds, at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and McLatchey said an analysis of past performance and future possibilities indicted a tally of 60 with 20 gold possible, That would put Australia fifth at the Sydney Olympics...

"It is a challenging target, but we think a realistic one for the year 2000 with Russian help now and the critical thing is to improve our performance in those sports which have been targetted."

Before the Soviet Union's break-up, its athletes dominated the Olympic medal tally and Russia appears to be continuing the tradition if its recent sporting successes are

a guide. The Australian government already allocates sub-stantial funding to sporting development through the Institute of Sport, which has specialist academies in Canberra and a number of other centres.

The institute already employs former East German Heiko Saldwedel for road cycling, Russian Gennadi Turestski for swimming, Romanian Reinhold Hatsch for rowing and China's Ju-Ping Tian for women's gym-

SPORTS IN BRIEF

said Samaranch.

Jordan dragged into baseball feud

ROME (AP) — The top Olympic official denounced

the abuse of drugs and dop-

ing by athletes, but said he

was convinced the problems

AIDS and doping are now

the constant concern of socie-

ty and government alike."

said Juan Antonio Samar-

anch, president of the Inter-national Olympic Commit-

tee, in his opening speech at a two-day conference of sports

Samaranch insisted on

separating the issues of drug

abuse from doping by

athletes seeking to improve

sports is not drugs, but dop-

ing. This is a completely different thing and we've been fighting it for a long

time and have had good re-sults," Samaranch said after

But cases of athletes using

performance-enhancing

drugs occur regularly. In

October, seven Chinese

swimmers - including

women's world champions

"The problem we have in

officials and athletes.

their performance.

his speech.

"Violence, drug abuse,

were surmountable.

MILWAUKEE (AFP) - Negotiations will resume here Tuesday in North America's baseball players strike, which has put Michael Jordan and other major-leaguers in uncomfortable positions. The walkout, now one week shy of reaching day 2000, began in August over a salary cap plan and wiped out last season's World Series. Pre-season workouts have started with low-level substitute players training for April openers. Talks will be restarted in Milwaukee among small groups under a backdrop of bad feelings. Management has inserted a unilateral salary change clause into new contracts, a move the union has protested to the U.S. Labour Relations Board. The union has also said it will consider anyone playing in any exhibition game a strikebreaker, even minor league contests among those not being considered for substitute jobs. That decision will likely prevent Jordan from getting playing time he needs to fulfil his major-league dream.

Cantona questioned by police

LONDON (R) - French striker Eric Cantona arrived at a London police station on Tuesday for questioning about his alleged assault of a soccer fan. Witnesses said Cantona, who this week returned to Britain after a holiday abroad, arrived at South Norwood holiday abroad, arrived at South Norwood Guidry, last week sleader, now is second with Police Station, driven by his lawyer. Cantona 66 points, after finishing second to Torrence was suspended for the rest of the season by champions Manchester United following an winner of the 60-metre hurdles at Cleveland incident in a Premier League match against and unbeaten in Grand Prix hurdles races this Crystal Palace on January 25. After being sent ser off, Cantona launched a two-footed attack on a spectator who had heckled him.

Atlanta Games' budget walks fine line

ATLANTA (AFP) - An accountant hired to study the organisers' budget for the 1996 Olympics found a minimal emergency fund that prompted one official to ask for cutbacks in some areas. Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) officials said they were satisfied with Robbie Pound's study of their \$1.6 billion budget, which showed only the minimum \$32 million reserve fund of uncommitted money. "I think ACOG should be planning for scope reductions," said George Berry, chairman of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority (MAOGA), the government group which overseas ACOG.

DENVER (AFP) — Denver Nuggets' general manager Bernie Bickerstaff, who guided Seattle to three playoff berths in his only prior Monday. Bickerstaff, who was 201-203 for the nutes.

SuperSonics from 1985-1990, replaced Gene Littles, who took over when Dan Issel quit as coach earlier this season. Bickerstaff's first game as coach will be Tuesday against the Los Angeles Clippers. S. Korea applies for 2002 World Cup

SEOUL (AP) — The secretary-general of South Korea's World Cup soccer bidding committee left Tuesday carrying the official letter confirming his country's bid to host the tournament in 2002. The confirmation will be delivered to FIFA, the world's soccer governing body, in Zurich, Switzerland, Wednesday, six days ahead of the deadline for submissions, committee officials said. Song Young-Shik, secretary-general of the Korean bidding committee, will be joined by his country's ambassador to Switzerland, Kang Dae-Wan, in submitting the letter to FIFA secretary-general Sepp Blatter, they said.

Torrence takes women's lead

NEW YORK (AP) - Gwen Torrence used a one-hundredth second victory over Carlette Guidry in the women's 60-metre dash to wrest the Mobile Indoor Grand Prix women's overall lead from her sprint rival. Torrence's triumph, in 7.13 seconds at the Keycorp Classic at Cleveland last Friday night, gave her 70. Grand Prix points for the season. at Cleveland in 7:14. Jackie Joyner-Kersee,

Atletico sack coach

MADRID (AFP) — Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil sacked his coach Jorge D'Alessandro on Tuesday and was expected to replace him with Argentina's World Cup coach, Alfio Basile. "If we carry on in the same way we're heading straight for the second division," Gil told local radio. D'Alessandro lost his job two days after Atletico, 17th in the league, lost 3-1 to Real Sociedad. Their Cup win over Barcelona last week failed to save him.

Hooligan hotline" identifies 40

LONDON (AFP) - Forty thugs believed to be responsible for last week's crowd disorder during the international against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin have been identified, thanks to the telephone "hooligan hotline" Bickerstaff to take over Nuggets set up last week. Irish police will travel to London within the next week to meet officials of the Football Association (FA) and the National Football Intelligence Unit. The troublemakers face the prospect of standing coaching stint, took over coaching duties for trial in the Republic over violence that saw the National Basketball Association club England's friendly abandoned after 27 mi-

Queen's has been working the ATP \$2.125 million inon ways to slow down the door tournament.

zum Thema"Analytische Aktivitaten des Um weltschutzlabors" der am Mittwoch, dem 22.2.95 im Goethe-Institut Amman gehaltien werden sollte, muss leider verschoben werden grass-court tournament on June 12-18.

Todd Martin, who beat Sampras in last year's final, has also committed to play in the most prestigious of the Wimbledon warmup events, organisers said Monday.

Other entries include Goran Ivanisevic, Stefan Edberg, Wayne Ferreira and

Patrick Rafter. The total purse, 403,000 pounds (\$625,000), is un-

changed from last year.

year - contained no breaks

Berasategui fights back In Stuttgart, French Open

finalist Alberto Berasategui came back from a slow start to defeat France's Olivier Delaitre in the first round of



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Pass Pass Pass NORTH Opening lead: Six of The USA 2 team won the 1993 + K9532 Venice Cup, symbolic of world worn-À J 6 en's supremacy, by defeating fa-+J98 EAST +84 +Q76 K107642 AJ853 Void Q72

Void Q 7 : 01 U A 🕈 K 1098543

Both vulnerable, South deals,

The balding. South West North East vored Germany handsomely in the finals. This hand helped build a substantial lead early in the match. West's double of four spades, de-signed to inhibit a heart lead, unfortunately, alerted North to the distributional quirks. Since East was likely to lead the ace of clubs,

lour spades would have been defeated without the double—the defenders can collect two clubs and a ruff and (we diamond ruffs. The American North retreated to five diamonds, doubled by East more out of pique than any firm conviction the

West's heart lead was ruffed and dummy was entered with the ace of diamonds. Since every card in the black suits was marked with East declorer chose a pretty way to land the contract. A spade was led to the lack was the contract.

contract could be defeated.

the contract. A spade was led to the jack, the ace of spades was cashed and the declarer crossed to the tables with the king of spades.

A winning spade was led from the heard. Had East not ruffed this spade or the next, declarer woulds have discarded two clubs from hand, then taken the trump finesse for an overtrick. When East ruffed low, declarer overruffed, cashed the king of diamonds and crossed to the jack of diamonds to discard a club on the last spade. The defenders scored only two club tricks.

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Allen, who also won the silver medal two years ago at

Sports fight drug'

the world. The athletes were players Roberto Bage SOSU ≃ುಣ್ಣ. Kazuyoshi Magan. Abel Balbo Japan. Abel balon of the Venuste Nivongst. Concl by player Michael Livi ∷e in The elite Olympa F ರ್ಷಚಿತ್ರ °op(è follow for young pane. દ્વાર. ċc.

Tues.

of the Olympic Sim confidence, colab security solidarily. Feliciano Mayoral, se. c' seneral of the Associational Olympic (ie 10 − But Giorgio Gio. Or executive of the U.V. there would be no additionally the control programm. 5:::-

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RIEF 1935-1990, replaced G season. Bickersziji Tuesday agains in

ea applies for 2002 World 15 — The secretary fear

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The confirmation:

The world's someh. Switzerland, W. anuad of the deather officials sail in = = F - general of the let will be joined to to Switzerland the letter of Sept Blatter, they are ence takes women's le

- A.A. Tomaca: To victory out (se типете de :-Tranc Prix words const rival issue The Enday might : to the sea than and similar now is second s ng: Joyner Kes ່ " with 63 poses co sack coach

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oligan hotline" identife - Forti thus best week screen is - 13: 323INSI tir R nave been state hooligan k r.t. ponce will us week 10 mens Association (FA) & nielligence line

ne prospect of gr

Zhang after the short programme, gave a highly polished performance after both of his rivals had bungled landings in the free section.

The political satistic to do, said Weiss.

"I knew I was one best show to was one b

servation, please of be oest in the world. I hope I can go on to do as well if not better."

Allen, who also won the silver medal two years ago at Saturdays

NBA giants remain centre of attention He ranks second in scoring bounds.

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Rule changes cannot stop them. Opponents barely slow them. Even comparisons to past heroes cannot diminish their achievements.

They are the giants of the National Basketball Association (NBA), a group of cen-tres who have dominated the league like no other tall men before them. Even after rule changes this year to emphasize guard play, these goliaths

Nigerian-born Hakeem Olajuwon and Jamaican native Patrick Ewing sparked the trend. Shaquille O'Neal, David Robinson and Zaire's Dikembe Mutombo followed while Alonzo Mourning and Dutchman Rik Smits put clubs in title contention.

NBA officials, hearing complaints that centres were becoming too dominant, shortened the three-point line and tightened defensive rules to encourage play away from the basket. But pregame scoring has remained unchanged and centres remain the top scorers.

"There are just a lot of talented players out there in the middle," Robinson said. "It goes in cycles. This is our

The retirements of Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson ended an era for flashy guards and the big men have inherited the throne. None has been more impressive than Orlando's O'Neal, a dunking dynamo whose 29.5 points a game leads the

"He is having a sensational season," Robinson said. "Most people can't see the little ways in which his game has stepped up from last sea-

The Magic are title contenders with O'Neal being supported by the rebounding of forward Horace Grant and the outside play of guard Anfernee Hardaway.

"You've got to say Shaq is the MVP," Hardaway said.
"He's the leading scorer. We would not be the same team without him.

Many have compared Shaq and "Penny" to the NBA's greatest 1980s tandem, Magic Johnson and centre Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. But the ex-Laker star and newest Hall of Fame inductee thinks Shaq has a way to go yet.
"Magic and I had already

won national college titles before we even made it to the NBA. These guys haven't,' Abdul-Jabbar said. "They have plenty of time. They will make their own statement." Olajuwon already has. He

was voted last season's Most Valuable Player after leading Houston to the NBA crown.

with 28.2 points with Robinson third at 27.6 points.

"Hakeem is the best centre in the league. I'm not," O'Neal said. "I'm probably second or third or even fourth."

Ewing rates seventh in scoring at 22.8 but his 11.5 rebounds are the best of the top scorers. Olajuwon averages 11.1 and O'Neal 10.7 a

"It's always hard to play against him," Olajuwon said. "He's not just playing for himself. He wants to win, like

The Knicks beat Houston 122-117 on Sunday, completing a season sweep of the club which beat them in last year's championship series. Ewing had 31 points to 24 for Olaiuwon. Both had nine re-

Olajuwon, who has gotten the best of Ewing in their 24 head-to-head battles, missed nine of his first 11 shots be-

cause of another Ewing trademark, defensive press-"I was just trying to make him work," Ewing said. Hakeem is a great player.

We always have a hardfought game. He has what I want, an NBA title." Ewing and Olajuwon have made their reputation with a well-rounded game. O'Neal has come from dunks, raps

and advertisements. But that works for Shaq. "The big guys who like to go out and shoot jumpers can go," O'Neal said. "I'm a role player. That's not my role. I'm going to get rebounds and dunk."

NBA leaders

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA individual scoring, rebounding and assist leaders through Feb. 19:

	SCORING	
O'Neai, Oriando Olajuwon, Houston Robinson, S. Antonio Malone, Utah Jackson, Dallas Mashburn, Dallas Ewing, N.Y. Richmond, Sacramento Ceballos, LA Lakers Sprewell, G. State Drexler, PorHou. Pippen, Chicago C. Robinson, Portland Rider, Minnesota Robinson, Milwankee Rice, Miami Barros, Philadelphia Hardaway, Orlando Payton, Seattle Mourning, Charlotte	FG FT 587 300 546 290 445 404 515 314 459 294 419 262 433 249 390 212 352 149 336 226 319 215 385 207	AVG 29.5 28.2 27.6 26.0 25.9 24.4 22.5 22.0 21.7 21.4 21.4 21.4 21.1 20.9 20.7 20.6 20.6 20.2
Mourning, Charlotte		

REBOUNDING OFF 168 204 196 105 115 145 127 192 190 216 110	DEF AVG 318 16.2 454 13.2 334 11.5 457 11.5 427 11.1 329 11.0 381 10.8 344 10.7 294 10.5 291 10.3 425 10.3				
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	OFF 168 204 196 105 115 145 127 192 190 216 110 ASSISTS NO 644 449 470 448 332 394 407 390				

University Games

Japan and U.S. join the gold rush

JACA, Spain (AFP) — Japan and the United States joined the gold rush at the World Winter University Games but Russia's skiers managed to tighten their grip on the medals table.

Japan's ski jumpers dominated the 90m hill event at Astun, with Yukitaka Fukita winning the gold med-al, Hiroki Vesugi the bronze and Noritaka Kasama taking

But hours later, the Americans went one better with Michael Weiss and Damo-Allen completing a one-two finish for the States in the men's figure skating at Sabi-

The pair ousted China's Zhang Min, who had been leading after Sunday night's short programme but who

had to settle for bronze. The Japanese ski jumpers, who allowed Slovenia's Franci Petek to take the silver, showed the skills which have seen their nordic combined athletes take charge of the World Cup in recent years.

With a points total of 240, Fukita, who won the large hill event at the Zakopane Games two years ago, was comfortably clear of Petek (235.5), with Vesugi polling

Weiss, who had been lying

"I didn't feel on top of things during the warm-up," he said, "so I'm happy with

what I accomplished. "It's nice to have held on to the same title, and second out of 23 is not bad." But he

Zakopane put a brave face on added: "I'll put it behind me Anna Larionova gave Rus-

sia their second victory of the Games — after Sunday's onetwo finish in the women's 10km cross country — win-ning a rare Alpine gold in the downhill at Formigal.





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Magic explode 152-104 over Bucks

CHARLOTTE (Agencies) - Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points and Anfernee Hardaway added 25 as Orlando established the largest margin of victory in team history, thrashing the Mil-waukee Bucks 152-104.

O'Neal scored 19 of his points in the first half as the Magic snapped a four-game

road losing streak.
Orlando beat Philadelphia 129-83 last Friday for the previous record and was only three points shy of tying the team record for points in a game. The Magic beat the Utah Jazz 155-116 on December 30, 1990.

Todd Day and Gienn Robinson each had 22 points as the Bucks tied a club record for largest margine in a defeat that was set in a 144-96 loss to the Jazz on Jan. 27,

Lakers 108, Supersonics 105: At Tacoma, Washington, Nicky Van Exel scored a career-high 40 points, including seven 3-pointers, as Los Angels beat Seattle for the fourth straight time this sea-

Los Angeles led 100-93 before the Supersonics trimed the deficit to 100-98 with 1:22

However, Van Exel made three free throws in the final 15.9 seconds to stave off Seattle.

Detlef Schrempf led the

Sonics with 26 points and Shawn Kemp had 25 points and 14 rebounds. Vlade Divac added 19

points and eight assists for Los Angeles. Warriors 98, 76ers 85: At Oakland, California, Tim Hardaway scored 21 points

and Donyell Marshall had 14 in his Golden State debut. Marshall, acquired Saturday from Minnesota for Tom Gugliotta, had eight of his points in the second quarter when the Warriors took the

lead for good. Dana Barros scored 26 points to lead Philadelphia, and Scott Williams had a career-high 20 rebounds to go with his 17 points.

Latrell Sprewell, with 17 points, was among six Warriors in double figures as new Golden State coach Bob Lanier got his second win since taking over for Don Nelson a week ago.

Hornets 115, Bulls 104: The Charlotte Hornets held Chicago to a franchise-low nine points in the third quarter and rallied from a 19point deficit to beat the Bulls 115-104 on Monday night. Scott Burrell, Hersey Haw-

kins and Larry Johnson scored 23 points each, and the Hornets established a team record for fewest points

allowed in a quarter. Chicago led 60-43 at halftime and built its lead in the third quarter. But the Bulis were 4-for-14 shooting in the quarter and committed 14 turnovers as they were out-

scored 35-9. Charlotte closed the final

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five minutes of the third make a two-point basket for guarter with a 23-5 run, and the final 7.27 of the third Burrell's 3-pointer with 16.4 quarter and first 9:15 of the seconds left gave Chariotte a 78-69 lead. The Homets hit fourth. Cleveland was 6-for-30 on two-point field goals in 10 of 16 shots in the period and outrebounded the Balls

Heat 103, Cavaliers 96: A:

Cleveland, Glen Rice, the

NBA's 3-point shooting

champion, hit six 3-pointers

and scored 36 points as

Miami snapped a three-game

second NBA coaching victory

since replacing Kevin Loughery on Feb. 14. Cleve-

land had a three-game win-

shooting championship der-

ing the NBA's all-star

weekend, was 6-for-10 on 3-

pointers and Miami was 9-

The Cavaliers did not

Rice, who won the 3-point

ning streak halted.

Alvin Gentry earned his

losing streak.

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spoken English, experience in accounting in the

lent command of both written and speken English ,

typing skills, additional languages such as German

ient command of both written and spoken English

typing skills, experience in the field of hotel reser-

the second half. Pistons, 99, Kings 93: At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Joe Dumars completed a fourpoint play to break a late tie Detroit broke a three-

game losing streak The loss ended Sac-ramento's three-game win-ning streak and cost the Kings a chance to go nine games over .500 for the first time since April 15, 1983, when the franchise was still in

Kansas City. The Pistons won the eighth time in 10 home games.

Spud Webb hit his tenth straight shot to make it 87-87 with 3:12 to go, and after the teams traded baskets. Dumars hit a 3-pointer from the right corner as he was fouled by Mitch Richmond. Dumars, who finished with 14 points, made the free throw to complete the rare



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four-point play.

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LKHAN-YURT, Russia Agencies) — Russian forces uesday made their biggest dvance in three weeks in reakaway Chechenya, seizng control of the last road eading into the capital Groz-

The movement in effect cut ff the last Chechen separatt fighters still holding posions in southern Grozny rom their rear base. Reporters at the scene saw

score of Russian tanks push orward to the village of Alkan-Yurt, seven ilometres southwest of Prozny, and take control of the Baku to Rostov-on-the-Oon road, formerly held by Thechen rebels.

Earlier rebels were seen apidly retreating in cars and our-wheel-drive vehicles. Russian infantry troops ilso entered Alkhan-Yurt where they exchanged autonatic weapons fire with separatists holding the vil-age, Chechen fighter Issa Khadzhyev said.

At least four Russian tanks also took up positions two kilometres north of the village of Goiti, 10 kilometres south of Grozny, residents there said.

They said the tanks had surrounded a separatist position, which they were pounding with artillery fire.
The Russian moves will

effectively give Moscow's troops control over all roads into the capital along a 15kilometre span. The Chechen separatist

commander in charge of the Alkhan-Yurt sector, Dok Makhayev, said the tank movements were "preparing a major Russian offensive in all directions later Tuesday

Further north, between Alkhan-Yurt and Kirova. fierce fighting raged Tuesday with the Russian army seeking to cut off access to Grozny from the west.

The large-scale attacks ended a relative lull in the 10-week conflict which a human rights body said had

informant

'feared for

NEW YORK (AP) — The South African student who

turned in a key World Trade

Centre bombing suspect says the man ordered him to carry

a bomb to the United States

and threatened his life if he

refused, a newspaper re-

The informant, Istiaque

Parker, 25, is in hiding some-where in the United States

and has agreed to testify

against suspect Ramzi

Ahmad Yousef at his trial,

the New York Times re-

Mr. Parker has told friends

and family that he has not received any of the \$2 million

reward money offered by the

U.S. government for in-

formation leading to Mr. Youse's arrest, the Times

The Times spoke to mem-

bers of Mr. Parker's family in

the Indian Muslim commun-

ity near Cape Town and to a

reporter for a monthly Mus-lim journal who had inter-

viewed Mr. Parker twice by

Mr. Parker's account, the

Times said, is that he met Mr.

Yousef last May in Islama-

bad, Pakistan, where he was

completing his religious studies at the Islamic University.

- At first he did not know

who Mr. Yousef was, Mr.

Parker said, Mr. Yousef, the

accused mastermind behind

the Feb. 26, 1993, World

Trade Centre bombing that

killed six people and injured

more than 1,000, was using a

false name and had altered

But after several months,

Mr. Parker said, Mr. Yousef

trusted Mr. Parker with the

secret of his identity and told

the South African that he had

blown up the trade centre.

Finally, Mr. Parker said,

Mr. Yousef told Mr. Parker

he had a mission for him: he

was to carry a bomb from

Pakistan to the United

"According to Mr. Parker's

uncle, Sitaar Parker, who

spoke to the student last

week, Mr. Parker "wanted to

get out of it," but Mr. Yousef

threatened him." He said:

you can't leave us now, you

know too much'."

his appearance, he said.

ported Tuesday.

ported Tuesday.

Yousef

life'

killed more than 24,000 civi-

A report, prepared by experts working for Russian human rights commissioner Sergei Kovalyov, said the scale of civilian deaths was comparable only with Poland in World War II.

Warplanes bombarded Chechen units in the locali-ties of Gudermes, Argun and Samashki and Russian forces also struck at Chechen positions in the Promyslovsky district on Grozny's northwest rim on Tuesday, Itar-Tass news agency said.
The Chechens confirmed

fresh clashes, saying Russian forces had launched an offensive with tanks, artillery and warpianes in areas south of the city at around 5 a.m. (0200 GMT).

Chechen Information Minister Movladi Udugov said military activity had died down by 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) after Russian forces failed to make a breakthrough in Chechen lines.

But he was also quoted by Interfax news agency as saying aerial attacks, some involving high-altitude bombing raids, were continuing in southern districts of the devastated capital as well as Argun, just to the east, at midday.

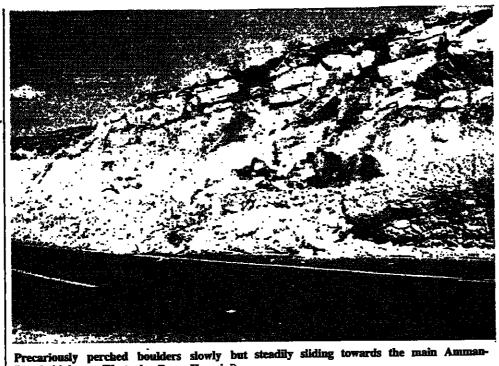
Mr. Udugov also said Chechen fighters had shot down a Sukhoi-25 fighter plane early on Tuesday between the southern districts of Chechen-aul and Stariye Atagi. But Interfax news agency quoted an air force official as denying this.

Chechens shot down a Sukhoi-27 in the area on Feb.

New military activity had been widely expected follow-ing pledges by Russian military officials to crush rebel resistance after the expiry of a four-day ceasefire on Sunday night.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has ruled out any more talks with rebels loyal to separatist leader Dzhokhar

(Continued on page 3)



Huge rocks sliding towards main Amman-Jerash highway

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A massive boulder is slowly sliding towards the main Amman-Jerash highway from the hillside adjoining the road and nothing could be done to stop the movement, officials said Tuesday.

The landslide started early Monday, causing rocks to fall on the road and hindering traffic for about two hours, police said.

The early morning avalanche involved about a 100metre stretch of a hill side near the Salhoub area north of Baqaa camp after a crack appeared in the rock structure, they said.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour estimated the boulder in motion at more than 750,000 cubic metres in volume and 1.5 million tonnes in weight.

"There is nothing that could stop it, and we are waiting to see what will happen after the mass stops moving," the minister told the Jordan Times.

He said the landslide stemmed from the weakness of clay which forms layers be-

"When the water level in the clay increased, it led to imbalance between the layers, causing the stone layer to split and start sliding," Dr. Ensour said. A team of experts was

keeping a round-the-clock monitoring of the area. Two lanes of the highway were closed immediately after Tuesday morning's slide and the other two lanes were open late Tuesday.

Dr. Ensour said a landslide occurred in the same area while work was under way on the same highway in 1992. "A visiting American team

proposed solutions to solve the problem, but it required huge amounts of money and special equipment and we could not afford it," Dr. En-The highway, which cost more than JD 40 million, was

opened in March 1994 after seven years of work. The project took so long to complete due to difficulties

including landslides and financial constraints, officials The highway shortened the distance from Amman to

Irbid by 20 kilometres. The

highway also bypassed the

avoiding the archaeological sites and residential districts. According to Dr. Ensour, the 75-kilometre highway has a series of mountains and any part of the range "could crack any time because of the

weak clay understructure."

The area around Jerash is the most dangerous, he said. There are 15 areas that could cause landslides at any time, including three most dangerous spots, and one of them was the area where the landslide occurred today," he

Dr. Ensour stressed that there was no real cause for alarm because landslides are a "known reality" and are expected. Most of the roads are under surveillance at all times by ministry workers, he

"This is a reality and we have to deal with it. Hopefully we will be able to control the situation and deal with every abnormal situation that is happening along the road."

"We can predict by detection and special equipments if the mountain will stop but we can't tell when it will stop," the minister added.

Beirut seeks to end clashes in south

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said on Tuesday he had started contacts with a number of countries to prevent worsening of the latest round of violence in South Lehanon.

But addressing parlia-ment's external affairs committee on the third day of clashes between guerrillas. and Israeli forces, Mr. Bouez dampened the hopes of some members of parliament (MPs) that Lebanon would make a complaint against Israrel to the U.N. Security Council.

"I am afraid that if we submit a complaint to the Security Council, the vote may not be in our favour."

Mr. Bouez said.

Later, he told Reuters: "I am holding contacts with some countries over the situation in the south."

Mr. Bouez said he suggested to the cabinet the

formation of a ministerial emergency committee to follow up flare-ups in South Lebanon.

"It was customary that we ask for American intervention whenever there is an (Israeli) aggression, but now we have to depend on ourselves because I fear that the American side may not

interfere," Mr. Bouez said. Guerrillas attacked three posts of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Tuesday, wounding one militiaman, pro-Israeli militia sources said.

Rabin said Tuesday that Iran and Germany had held secret talks for the release of Israeli

fighter pilot Ron Arad but

"There were contacts be-

tween the Germans and the

Iranians," over the fate of

Arad, missing since his plane

was shot down over Lebanon

in 1986, Mr. Rabin told Israel

concrete about either where

he is detained or his physical

condition. We still believe be

is alive and we still hold the

In Germany, the Frankfur-ter Allgemeine newspaper

said negotiations had been

going on for years and had now "entered the decisive

Iran had provided Israel

with a videotape showing

Arad was alive and a letter

from him, the daily said,

quoting Bonn security offi-

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben Ami had earlier

totally denied the newspaper

ments. We have neither cas-

settes, nor letters, nor nego-

"We know nothing about all the details in the German

newspaper which is reputed

"We have no new ele-

report (see page 2).

tiations," he said.

"But it produced nothing

they failed.

fate."

Security sources said Israeli gunnes simultaneously pounded guerrilla-held areas north of the zone but no one Israeli planes and artillery

have blasted guerrilla-heid areas in South Lebanon in the past two days, killing two civilians and a guerrilla on Sunday after pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters killed an SLA militia-

One SLA militiaman was wounded when guerrillas opened up with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades on the outposts of Aramta and Toumat Niha in mountains on the northeastern edge of the Israeli-occupied border enclave, sources said. Shortly after the 10 a.m.

(0800 GMT) attack. Israeli gunners blasted suspected guerrilla targets near the vil-lages of Maidoun and 'Ain Al Tineh in the lowlands southeast of Tournat Niha, the sources said. They requested anonymity.

'Ain Al Tinch is on the southern edge of the Bekaa Valley and close to where Israeli warplanes staged two air raids on Monday. There was no word on

casualties in Tuesday's howitzer barrage, which reached a climax of 15 shells in 30 minutes. Violence escalating since

to be serious and credible but

An Israeli security official

said there was no firm proof

that Arad, shot down over

South Lebanon on Oct. 16,

not changed and we are wait-

ing to get concrete proof to

be sure that Ron Arad is in

fact alive," the official said.

The Iranians handed over a

new sign of life" from Arad,

a videotape, and Arad's wife,

who is in Washington D.C.,

received a letter from Arad,

Frankfurter Allgemeine said.

It did not say when the

or when it was handed over.

Mr. Rabin denied there was

Dieter Vogel, spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl,

said he "won't deny there

have been such contacts (with

Iran). But I don't know of

any details. The job of secret services is to be secret."

Zeev Schiff, military

analyst for the Haaretz daily.

said he was certain the Ger-

mans are holding talks with the Iranians and that "in

these talks they bring up the

Mr. Schiff said the Ger-

mans apparently leaked the Arad talks to deflect U.S.

criticism over their deepening economic ties with Iran and

(Continued on page 3)

issue of Ron Arad.

any new video or letter.

"For us the situation has

1986, was still alive.

Sunday has threatened to further slow down the U.S.sponsored Middle East peace

Rabin confirms contacts

with Iran over airman

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — to be serious and credible by Prime Minister Yitzhak which did not contact us.

U.K. policeman acquitted of raping colleague.

LONDON (AFP) — A 25-year-old police constable was acquitted of raping a col-league following a New Year's Eve party after he told an eight-man, four-woman jury, "I know that when a woman says no she means no." Michael Seear had been accused by a policewoman of lurging her back to his room 🥶 in the Surrey Police Headquarters bachelors' dormi-tory on the pretext of being too drunk to walk by himself after the party Jan. 1 last 🐺 year. The woman, also 25 whose identity as an alleged rape victim is protected by law, said that once they were in his room he locked the door and raped her. Mr. Seear, testifying during his six-day trial, termed the charge "sheer fabrication," saying the two engaged only in consensual, non-coital intimacies, as they had on previous nights, stopping when she said "no". He said the woman had been romantical ly involved at the time with a friend of his, another policeman living in the same dormi-

Unknown jumping dinosaur discovered

which has christened the animal "Genusaurus sister-onis," said it belongs to a species which had been thought to have died out before the Jurassic era, 40 million years earlier. The museum's Professor Philippe Taquet said the creature had strong legs and was probably a good jumper. 'Its very prominent knees would have allowed it to make very big leaps, or at least given it very supple legs," he said.

Sweden mourns as baby rhino **Nelson dies**

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — His plight had touched a nation but no amount of kindness could save Nelson the sick rhino, who died Monday after suffering from a brain disease since birth. Sweden was in mourning as the direc-. tor of Kolmaarden Zoo, southwest of Stockholm, announced the death only hours after vets said the baby rhinoceros would have to be put down Tuesday because they could not treat a herpeslike virus affecting his brain. The nation's media had published regular bulletins on his health since he was born prematurely on Feb. 11 and children pleaded for vets to save him. But Bengt Roeken, the vet treating Nelson — named after South African President Nelson Mandela — at the University Hospital in Uppsala, north of Stockholm, said earlier Monday: "You can't keep a two tonne animal alive when it can't stand up

Police recover remaining Jewish

treasure BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Police have recovered the final missing pieces of a \$200 million Jewish artifact collection stolen in Hungary in 1993. Thirty gold and silver pieces worth \$4.5 million were found late last week, police spokesman Lt.
Col. Nicolae Budur said. His statement gave no further details. On Sunday, Hungarian police and experts arrived in Bucharest to verify the find Col. Bucur said the objects would probably be returned would probably be returned to Hungary next month. Lac. August, police discovered trove of gold and silver religious relics, carpets and paintings in a village near the Romanian capital. The objects were stolen from the Budapest Jewish Museum and December 1993.

PARIS (AFP) - The remains of a previouslyunknown species of twolegged dinosaur which probably jumped a great deal has been unearthed in southeast France, archaeological officials said Monday. The pelvis and back leg of the 100 mil-lion year old creature, which was probably about 1.5 metres (about six feet) tall, have been discovered near the town of Sisteron, half way between Grenoble and the south coast. The National Museum of Natural History,

straight."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court frees suspected Jewish bomber

TEL AVIV (AFP) - An Israeli court freed on bail Tuesdday a 22-year-old settler accused of preparing to bomb Muslims in Jerusalem. Police had requested that Doron Golding of the hardline Jewish settlement of Hebron remain in custody while inquiries go on. The court ordered his release but placed him under house arrest for several hours each day. Golding has arrested on Feb. 11 just before last week's first anniversary of the Hebron mosque massacre by Baruch Goldstein, who also lived in Kiryat Arba. Police said Golding was caught carrying two bottles of acid and ball bearings to be used to kill Arabs on the Haram Al Sharif complex in East Jerusalem. Golding, a former militant in the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement, claimed the equipment was for cleaning out drains.

Ciller mourns her mother's death

ISTANBUL (AP) - Prime Minister Tansu Ciller remained confined to her mansion Tuesday to mourn the death of her mother. Muzzzez Ciller, 86, died Monday. The cause of her death was not disclosed. The funeral was scheduled Wednesday.

Extremists kill Egyptian policeman

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Muslim extremists killed a policeman on his way to work Tuesday. In another incident, three civilians were wounded, apparently when police fired by mistake. Seweify Abdul Hamid Mohammad, 40, was killed instantly when he was shot near his house in Abu Qurqas, 220 kilometres south of Cairo, his attackers escaped. The shooting occurred in Minya province, where fighting between militants and the government has been fiercest. In another incident Monday in Minya, three civilians were wounded, two of them seriously. It was not clear who fired the shots, but one of the men told authorities he believed police fired by mistake, thinking the men were extremists.

Italy 'not responsible' for Lebanon waste

BEIRUT (R) — Italy said on Tuesday it was not responsible for an estimated 10,000 barrels of toxic waste which environmental watchdog Greenpeace says were dumped in Lebanon from Italy in the 1980s. Italian Ambassador Carlo Calia said Lebanon needed to prove first that the barrels existed and that they came from Italy before it agreed to take any back. "We will not take barrels that do not exist. We came here and took back all the barrels proven (to have come from Italy)," Mr. Calia told reporters in reference to 6,000 barrels sent back to Italy in 1988. Greenpeace said last month the 6,000 barrels were part of a shipment of 16,000 barrels of toxic waste sent to Lebanon in 1987-88 of which 10,000 were believed to have been dumped off the Lebanese coast or buried in the

Buthelezi suspends Inkatha role in parliament

CAPE TOWN (AP) - Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi stopped just short of pulling his Inkatha Freedom Party out of the government Tuesday, suspending its participation in parliament until his demands on autonomy were addressed. Mr. Buthelezi, who has repeatedly used brinksmanship to push his demands, said Inkatha ministers would continue serving in the multi-party cabinet led by President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). But Inkatha legislators suspended "active participation" in South Africa's first multi-racial parliament, Mr. Buthelezi said, and would not contribute to its main task, writing a new constitution.

Military security officer shot dead in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — Suspected Islamic extremists killed a colonel in Algeria's military security service and two of his bodyguards in an ambush in the capital Algiers, sources close to French intelligence said Tuesday.

Colonel Djilali Meraou. 56, known as Si Salah, died on Sunday when suspected Islamic extremists machinegunned his car and an escorting vehicle in the Kouba district, a fundamentalist stronghold not far from the city

centre. Two of his bodyguards were also killed and the driver of Meraou's car was badly wounded, the sources said. Meraou had been charge d'affaires in the press service

of the Defence Ministry. The London-based Al Hayat newspaper said the colonel was an influential figure close to the boss of the

military security. Mohammad Mediene, known as Tewfiq. The government daily Al Moujahid published a death notice saying that Meraou and the two others had died in an "odious terrorist attack."

"Terrorists" is a word often used by the authorities to describe guerrillas. Algeria is in the grip of a

bloody insurrection by extremists whose war against the army-backed secular authorities has claimed at least 30,000 lives in three years. A spate of murderous

attacks on civilians, including teachers, journalists and leading artists, has marked the Holy Month of Ramadan, which began on Feb. 1. The Islamic Salvation

Army (AIS) and the most radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) called on their fighters to step up their activities dur-ing Ramadan, on the grounds that it was a month for "holy

Last week, bridges and railway lines close to the capital were targeted in bomb attacks and several other bombs were defused. One of them was found in the often crowded Meissonnier market in central Algiers, press reports said.

led in different parts of the

Security officials in Algiers said Tuesday that eight Isla-mic extremists had been kilpeace in the anarchic country as the last United Nations troops prepared to evacuate.

Yemen opposition leader says Saudi talks a plot

SANAA (R) — A Yemeni opposition leader has described talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to solve their 60-year-old border dispute as a conspiracy.
Omar Al Gawi, leader of

the Yemen Unionist Party (YUP), told a news conference in Sanaa late Monday night that "what is going on in Saudi Arabia is not negotiations but a conspiracy."

Delegates from both sides

have been discussing in the Saudi capital Riyadh for a month how to solve the border problem, with no sign so far of a major breakthrough on a memorandum of understanding.
Mr. Gawi said the Saudis

want to divide the question of

the demarcation of borders

between Saudi Arabia and

both former North and South

Yemen "and it seems to me

this view has been accepted," by the Yemeni delegation.

The two parts of Yemen merged in 1990, and official sources said Sanaa was insisting in the negotiations that the borders should be treated as one and not two separate Mr. Gawi said "this is a

warned that "the Yemeni people will foil any agreement that effects national sovereignty."
Mr. Gawi's party is one of the main seven opposition groups commanding about 75

seats in the 301-member par-A statement in the name of the seven parties read during the conference also warned the people will foil any agreement molesting their

sovereignty, soil and national

among Somali factions MOGADISHU (Agencies) - Italy's special envoy to Somalia said on Tuesday the former colonial power would Mogadishu, Mohammad Farah Aideed — and got bogged down in a feud with no longer attempt to broker

Italy will not mediate peace

"Italy has made many attempts at reconciliation between the Somali factions... the situation is now at a loss," Giorgio Veechi told reportes on the Italian aircraft carrier Garibaldi off Mogadishu's Indian Ocean coast.

peace themselves." Italian ships and troops are taking part in the U.S.-led operation "United Shield" to

"The Somalis must make

pluck a rearguard of Pakistani U.N. troops from the beaches of Somalia's capital within days. But Mr. Vecchi said he had no plans to make contact with any Somali faction leaders.
"Nobody knows what will very serious matter" and

happen in Somalia," he said. "Some say it will be the moment for the Somalis to make peace. There is also a belief that it will be the moment of doom."

The U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) is leaving two years after thousands of U.S.-led foreign troops landed to sweep militias aside and get food to people in the interior who were dying of famine at the rate of 1,000 a

day. That part of the mission

UNOSOM quarrelled with the warlord who has loose control of the streets in South

Several Italian peacel cepers were gunned down in Mogadishu along with dozens of soldiers from other nations. Western forces pulled out last March and the Asian and African troops who were left as the U.N.'s caretakers are now following.
Italian marines due to help

his militias.

cover the withdrawai of U.N. troops are confident of securing the port and airport, their commander said.

Admiral Elio Bolongaro, second-in-command of the U.S.-led operation, refused to specify when the 500 Ita-lian and 2,600 U.S. marines will hit the beaches from landing craft saying that was "a military secret."

The same response was given by a U.S. lieutenantcolonel who is spokesman for the 18-ship armada. On Thursday, militiamen

shot in the air at the gate to the airport — a demonstration of muscle-power — and Pakistani U.N. guards returned the fire, also in the air, as women and children hit the sand. Guards at the seaport also

fired in the air after beating (Continued on page 3)

Number 5852 Volume 19 _{Jordan}, Bahrain draft media accord

Israeli allies threater VARIAYOUN (AP) - The commande

MARJAYOUN (AP) — The commands wan milita in South Lebanon Wednesday wan milita in the government continues to tag enes if the government continues to tag only and complained that many of the DEC and complained

so-called "security zone nave ocers searches and arrests at Lebanese arms northern edge of the enclave. "These serior to make the contract to make the contr northern edge of the enclave. These ser subject the country to grave consequences, subject the country to South Lehanon Army of the 2500-strong South Lehanon Army of the actions he would take. His come

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The sleep kept fisherman ashore, threatens. The siege acputing them of their only se

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MANAMA (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Information Ministry Secretary-General Nayer Mola on Wednesday signed a Mola on vicinically signed a draft executive programme with Dr. Halah Umran, the under secretary of the Bahraini Ministry of Information to launch cooperaion in information-related felds. The draft agreement would be endorsed by the gwernments of the two counnes during a visit to Jordan next month by Bahrain's Information Minister Tareq Al Musyad at the invitation of his Jordanian counterpart Rhaled Karaki. The draft programme provides for the two countries to exchange radio and television messiges, hold training program-mes for personnel working for information services. coordinate in the use of sateiites for radio and television broadcasts, exchange of radio and television news and other programmes, conduct joint programmes production work coordinate work in publications and the work of the national news agencies and exchange publications and information booklets and media expertise. The Jordanian delegation was later recrived by Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah, the emir of Bahrain, who voiced pride in the Jordanian-

Iran denies talks with israel on Arad

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Wednesday denied it had enaged in talks with Israel for the release of Ron Arad, an brieli airman captured in Lebanon in 1986. The Frank-Inter Aligemeine Zeitung newspaper reported Tuesday that Israeli and Iranian negotiators have been meeting in separate rooms at the German chancellery in Bonn. with German mediators shutcuss Arad. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi as saying Tuesday that no direct or indirect negotiations with Israel through Germany have taken

Iran blasts U.N. human rights report

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran alleged Wednesday that a recent U.N. report accusing it of human rights violations was "spiteful" and based on information from groups hostile to the Islamic republic. Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the report repeated 'earlier spiteful and contradictory claims' made by the United Nations. In a report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission Monday. Salvadorean Jurist Reynaldo Galindo Phol said Iran continued to rely heavily on executions, torture, repression and religious persecution to enforce obedience to its Islamic revolutionary ideals.
This report has been prepared indirectly on the basis of groups hostile to the Isla-nic Republic of Iran," the radio said.

Arab League opens meeting on Somalia

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League opened an interna-tional conference Wednesday on how to help Somalia after United Nations troops complete their withdrawal next month. Participating in the two-day meeting are representatives of the United Nations tions, the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Con-ference and some of the 22 League. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's Secretary rold the Secretary general, told the conference that all Arab League resolutions stress League resolutions stress the importance of supporting the Somali people and Somali people and Somali people and Somali people and Marring factions." Dr. Magerous bend" that the Page 12).

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